

FRIDAY MAY 11 1984

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## THE TIMES Tomorrow

### Musical chez

Peter Hall on Mozart's home on the South Downs

### Bed and board

Four poster, stately home. Japanese food... Roy Strong's ingredients for the Perfect Day



### Feet into miles

Pat Butcher and David Powell preview the 21,000-strong London Marathon - the greatest marathon ever staged

### Irishize

Who's Irish when it comes to choosing top Irish authors?

## Rolls-Royce to get £60m aid

The Government is to inject £60m of public money into the state-owned Rolls-Royce company to help with Britain's participation in the five-nation V2500 aero-engine project. The aid will be repaid as a levy on sales.

## Britain starts air fare war

Britain is starting an air fare price war in the EEC by surrendering its right to interfere in the fixing of rates for flights within the Community. Fares between London and Amsterdam have already been cut by two-thirds.

### Rail threat

Railway unions are to announce plans today for disruption of services over a pay dispute. The first action will begin in two weeks unless a compromise is found.

### Tax scare lifted

The Government in a Commons statement quashed persistent rumours that it was about to end tax relief on lump sum payments from pension funds taken on retirement.

### WPC verdict

WPC Yvonne Fletcher was unlawfully killed by a bullet fired from a window of the Libyan People's Bureau, an inquest decided.

### Reuters trustees

The trustees responsible for keeping Reuters independent when the news and business information agency goes public next month, have been named.

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### Pound falls

The pound touched another low against the dollar, falling 1.5 cents to \$1.3750 before recovering slightly to close 50 points down at \$1.3850.

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### Spring break

The House of Commons will rise for the spring adjournment on Friday, May 25 and return on Monday, June 4. The House of Lords rises on May 24.

Parliamentary report, page 4

### Agostinho dies

Joaquim Agostinho, the Portuguese cyclist, has died from head injuries 10 days after crashing during the Tour of Algarve race.

### Leader page, 17

Letters: On vocational training from Sir Kenneth Corfield; Olympics, from Mr R J Kelly; African self-help, by Dr A Dickson.

Leading articles: Interest rates; Central America; Danny the Red.

### Features, pages 12, 13, 16

The GLC's dignified death pangs; Mending fences with Iraq; David Watt on the realities behind the New Ireland Forum report; Spectrum; the Chieftains; 21 years of classical pop; Friday Page; Kidnapping, the family way.

### Obituary, page 18

Professor T W Thacker, Mr John Chancellor, Miss E Virginia Williams.

Classified, page 23 and 28 to 30

Your own business; motoring.

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## Police preparing clampdown on pit violence

- Police in Derbyshire are considering putting a limit on numbers picketing outside pits in the county because of a "dramatic change" in miners' attitudes.
- Violent incidents include an attempt by pickets to overturn a coach taking 20 NCB office staff, mostly women, to work.

By Craig Seton

Derbyshire police are considering limiting the numbers of striking miners picketing pits and may adopt the policy of stopping flying pickets on the road to counter a "dramatic change" in the attitude of miners involved in the dispute.

Mr Alfred Parish, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, indicating a new handling approach by his force, said that he was not prepared to allow "intimidation by numbers" or the act of violence and sabotage which had increased in the area in the last few days.

Yesterday, as the miners' strike neared the end of its ninth week, there was further evidence suggesting that at least some striking miners are now adopting increasingly desperate measures.

At Blidworth Colliery, Nottinghamshire, the National Coal Board reported that striking miners, mainly from outside the coalfield, had adopted the tactic of moving away from the pit entrance to picket the homes of miners leaving for work, subjecting them to verbal abuse.

Nineteen pickets were arrested

- Miners' leaders are expected to ask transport unions for sympathy action in support of the nine-week-old pit strike

Page 2

- Police halted busloads of pit pickets on way to Ravenscraig and charged 292 with obstruction

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In one case, a coach taking 20 clerical staff - mainly women - to an NCB office at Dukhnoe, Derbyshire, was stopped, apparently by pickets in their cars, and stones were thrown through the windows, slightly injuring several occupants. An attempt was then made to overturn the coach before its driver managed to escape with his bus. Mr Parish said that the women inside had been terrified.

Asked what Derbyshire police would do if miners on their way to picket a colliery were asked to turn back, and refused, he said: "Let us wait and see."

It is understood the change in tactics Derbyshire police have in mind would be to stop miners making their way to a local pit if it is considered there are already enough present.

Sympathy call, page 2

## 292 charged at Ravenscraig

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

About 292 miners' pickets were charged with obstruction yesterday after eight buses carrying them to the Ravenscraig steel works at Motherwell were intercepted by Strathclyde police.

The miners, from Fife, were stopped on the A80 near Stepps. They disembarked, sat down and linked arms, blocking the road. Police appealed for them to move, were ignored and six bussards were then arrested.

They were taken to police stations in Glasgow and charged. A report has been sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

More than 30 lorries in five convoys went into Ravenscraig in Nottinghamshire.

arrests were made on picket lines as more than 3,500 pickets gathered at the still-working pits. More than 2,500 were at Beccles colliery, near Retford.

The Prime Minister yesterday condemned the violence between pickets and police at the Ravenscraig steel works and the Hunterston terminal on the Clyde.

During sharp Commons exchanges on the strike Mrs Margaret Thatcher was accused by Mr Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, of trying to starve the miners into accepting pit closures.

Parliamentary Report, page 4

## Bureau gun link with dead Libyan

By Our Political Correspondent

Ministers confirmed last night that forensic scientists may have found a link between one of the guns found in the Libyan People's Bureau and the assassination of a Libyan citizen in Britain some time ago.

Mr Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford, West, yesterday raised the point during Commons questions to the Prime Minister, but Mrs Thatcher failed to respond to the specific suggestion.

Labour Weekly, the party newspaper, also carried a front page report by Mr Keo Hyder, a journalist who has specialized in Scotland Yard leaks, which said that the evidence linking the bureau gun with a previous killing had been classified secret by the Home Office.

He also said that some of the seven weapons found by the police had been traced to a British arms dealer and added: "Many police officers are privately bitter over the way pressure was exerted on them during the siege which ended with them escorting their colleague's murderer out of the country."

Mr Madden said last night that the new evidence, taken together with a Central Television programme on covert operations from the South African Embassy, emphasized the need for an independent inquiry into unacceptable diplomatic activities.

Mrs Thatcher rejected the Commons requests for inquiries. Inquest verdict, back page

## No-one dared tell Foot to resign

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

A member of the Shadow Cabinet said last night that Mr Michael Foot had not been asked to quit the Labour leadership before the last election because no one of enough standing could be found to deliver the black spot.

One member of the Shadow Cabinet who was engaged in at least one of the secret conspiracies to resolve the "leadership problem" said last night: "There was a moment when it might have been possible to have raised it with Michael, but the Darlingwood result and The Times speculation about his leadership made it impossible."

He argues that resignation would have been regarded as complete capitulation to the Tory press and even if Mr Denis Healey had taken over, the Labour campaign would have been dogged by questions about Mr Healey's chances in a confidence leadership ballot which would have taken place within four months of the General Election.

Mr Foot also points out that only two Labour MPs told him to his face that he should not be

"leading the party - Mr Jeff Rooker, who made the point in November 1982, and Mr Gerald Kaufman, who raised the matter during the election campaign a year ago."

Leading figures in the Shadow Cabinet who was engaged in at least one of the secret conspiracies to resolve the "leadership problem" said last night: "There was a moment when it might have been possible to have raised it with Michael, but the Darlingwood result and The Times speculation about his leadership made it impossible."

He added that what had particularly upset him at the time was the outright disbelief of those close to Mr Foot. "Some of Michael's best friends bear the heaviest responsibility for what happened."

He thought it might be possible to provide a guarantee for buyers using the services of Debenhams, which will computerize data matching buyers and sellers.

Debenhams also plans to offer mortgage advice as a separate property service. The Halifax Building Society already runs two agencies within

Debenhams, one of the most familiar names in the high street, is to enter the business with a service which could break the buying chain bottleneck.

Debenhams has two big advantages: the number of people passing through its stores, putting buyers and seller in contact, and its financial strength which will provide new services like bridging loans to get buying chains moving.

Does the group rule out buying a house to start a stalled chain moving?

Debenhams may also experiment with opening property transactions for a flat fee, a



Olympic appeal: Models in London yesterday showing off the outfits to be worn by the British team at the opening ceremony of the Games in Los Angeles in July

## Fears grow for 1988 Olympic Games

From Richard Owen

Moscow

Diplomats said here yesterday that if efforts to persuade the Russians to take part in the Los Angeles Olympic Games fail during the next few weeks, Moscow may well boycott the next Olympiad in South Korea in four years time, spelling doom for the modern Olympic movement.

East Germany yesterday followed the Soviet and Bulgarian lead and pulled out of the Los Angeles Games. It said that the security of the participants had not been guaranteed and the "honour, dignity and life" of East German athletes had to be protected.

Sources here said Soviet intentions would become clearer when President Kim Il Sung of North Korea visits Moscow later this month. He will follow Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who has said he hopes to persuade the Soviet leadership to retract its decision not to go to Los Angeles before the June 2 deadline.

Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday he hoped to meet President Chernenko in the near future in Moscow. Señor Samaranch said he would be taking a letter from President Reagan with him to Moscow. He described the letter as "very very important" and said it contained "many reassurances".

Two other senior Olympic officials are expected in Moscow today to begin last-ditch negotiations. They are to meet Mr Marat Gramov, the chairman of the Soviet Olympic Committee, which announced on Tuesday that conditions in Los Angeles made it "impossible" for the Soviet Union to participate.

Loss to Sport: East Germany's failure to appear in Los Angeles would have a devastating effect on athletics and swimming. In recent years, the East German sprinters and swimmers have been virtually unbeatables (Our Sports Staff writes).

Karamanlis offer, page 6



## Journalists back Express editor

By Robin Young

The resignation of the editor of the Daily Express, Sir Larry Lamb, remained inoperative yesterday. Journalists on the paper voted overwhelmingly to support him against pressure from the print union Sogat 82 to allow Mr Arthur Scargill right of reply to a three-page attack which the Express carried on Wednesdays.

In the House of Commons, the Prime Minister also rallied to Sir Larry's cause, though the Express's proprietor Lord Matthews, who refused all day to comment, was reported to be unhappy with its length and vituperative language.

Sir Larry, whose offer to resign remained unaccepted, also had no comment. The editing of the paper was in the hands of his deputy, Mr Leith Grandine.

A crowded meeting of the Daily Express chapter (offices) of the National Union of Journalists voted overwhelmingly to support Mr Scargill's article until Mr William Kays, general secretary of Sogat 82, withdraws his threat to close the paper.

Leaders in the Labour Party, by contrast, were delighted by Lord Matthews' apparent willingness to grant a right of reply. They hoped this might curb the enthusiasm of national newspaper editors for attacks on trade union figures.

Sources here said Soviet officials would become clearer when President Kim Il Sung visits Moscow later this month. He described the letter as "very very important" and said it contained "many reassurances".

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Karamanlis offer, page 6

## Montego stoppage fuels fear of autumn clash at Austin Rover

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Production of Austin Rover's new Montego saloon at Cowley was halted last night by the latest in a series of unofficial strikes. There is growing concern within the company that its commercial success may be fostered increased militancy on the shop floor.

The Montego walkout came only hours after the ending of a week-long strike at Longbridge which cost output of 6,000 Metros worth £75m at showroom prices and threatened the impending launch of a new small Rover. The new flare-up began when 40 men employed on the Montego final trim and assembly line ignored the advice of the plant committee and stopped work in protest at reduced bonus earnings. A further 300 men were laid off.

One man said: "We are fed up working so hard without getting anything to show for it."

## Miners to ask for sympathy walk-outs

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Sheffield

Miners' leaders are to ask the transport unions to stage sympathy stoppages in support of the nine-week pit strike.

The request for supportive industrial action is expected to be put to a conference of rail, road and sea unions in London tonight as the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) makes fresh moves to spread the strike to mining areas still working.

Peace feelers by unnamed "mediators" to arrange negotiations between the National Coal Board and the NUM came nothing yesterday as the union's national executive adhered to its hardline policy of no talks on pit closures or job losses.

Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, said: "People have been to see us and suggest there may be a possibility of discussions between the coal board and ourselves. We said the same thing to those people that we have said since last October - we will meet the NCB either formally or informally but we will not talk about pit closures."

"We shall be discussing measures to make the dispute more successful. We are concerned we are winning."

The miners have cancelled their annual policymaking conference due to be held in Derby, Dyfed, in July, and the 100+ fulltime officials also met yesterday to donate their salaries to the NUM hardship fund for the duration of the strike.

These two developments mean that NUM leaders expect that the strike will continue for many more weeks.

Scargill claimed that coal stocks at power stations were down to 17m tonnes and

output had fallen to 300,000 tonnes a week - one seventh of normal production.

Pressure on those areas still working is to be intensified, beginning with a mass rally in Mansfield, heart of the non-striking Nottinghamshire coalfield no Monday.

The Conservatives, he said, had maintained a consistent commitment to the Community and had made real achievements to create better working relations in Europe. The party offered a vision and sense of purpose which it alone could transform into reality.

"We want to make of the Community not just a force for stability, democracy and prosperity in Europe, but for liberty, peace and civilized relations between nations around the world. We want greater unity in Europe to help strengthen Western security and to open up new avenues of contact between East and West."

"We want Europe to build on its unique historical and trading links with the Third World to increase understanding and cooperation between developed and developing nations."

"We want to see the community use its vast resources of technical know-how and skilled manpower to assert its position as a power house of technological and commercial success. This is the potential of the Community".

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that potential which made the long, tough and all too slow negotiations worthwhile. Difficult decisions were postponed and the headlines spoke of crisis and conflict. Yet, he said, significant and encouraging progress had been made.

Agreements had been reached on a fair budget system, putting an end to annual haggles, a stricter control of expenditure including agriculture, limits on the production of food surpluses, new initiatives to reduce barriers within the market and greater emphasis on scientific and technical cooperation.

Referring to East-West relations, Sir Geoffrey said the Government would seek to make plain to Russia that it had no aggressive intentions and sought only security.

Mr Peter Fraser, Solicitor General for Scotland, appealed at the conference for hard evidence against those who deal in the "evil trade" of drugs trafficking.

He said the evidence was desperately needed to combat the tragic misuse of drugs and gave a warning that those prosecuted for trafficking in drugs would be taken to the High Court where they would be exposed to the full range of sentences.

The conference will be addressed by the Prime Minister today.

Despite improvement in production, bonuses have fallen short of the £30-a-week ceiling.

They are now around £15 to £16, the workers say.

An Austin Rover spokesman said: "The remedy is in the man's own hands. Their unconstitutional action is typical of the sort of thing that has been happening recently and depressing the level of bonus payments, which are based on the efficiency of the plant as a whole."

He said there had been several stoppages at Cowley in recent weeks. None lasted long, but they upset the efficient working of the plant.

Managers are worried that news of the company's recovery from losses of £101m in 1982 to a trading profit of £2m last year and the launch of vital new model may have provided

militants with both the ammunition and the timing for a fresh wave of "bushfire" strikes as a prelude to a serious confrontation in the autumn.

A two-year pay deal involving increases of 5.6 per cent a year expires in November. It follows six years in which the highest annual increase was 6.8 per cent and the lowest 3.8 per cent.

Shop stewards insist that the time is overripe for Austin Rover to end this austerity and reward employees for keeping with their remarkable increases in productivity.

They are making great play of management's own claims that Austin Rover productivity is now on a par with the best in Europe.

Management's answer is that the reward is already being given in the shape of revised bonuses of up to £30 a week.



Jersey cows Emma and Miss Emma join farmers in a solemn procession to protest against EEC milk quota cuts

## Farmers protest over doorstep milk threat

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's dairy farmers may be unable to meet the demand for doorstep milk deliveries this summer because of the new EEC-imposed production quotas.

That warning came from Mr George Wheeler of Droitwich, one of about 50 Worcestershire farmers who demonstrated yesterday to London. He said that last July and August the Milk Marketing Board had come within three per cent of being unable to supply dairies

with the milk they needed. With production now cut by nine per cent, there was a real possibility of supplies running out.

After staging a mock funeral along the Embankment and Fleet Street, complete with coffins, placards and two Jersey cows to London with him, Now he said, Miss and Emma would both be sent for slaughter, even though Emma had produced more than 6,000 litres during her last milk season and was the daughter of a supreme champion at the Three Counties Show.

He described the situation as heartbreaking.

One of the demonstration organizers, Mr Peter Daniell of Upton upon Severn, said that unless the Government could be persuaded to change its mind, dairy farmers would be in dire trouble.

Since 1981 he had invested large sums of money in expanding his herd, encouraged by statements from Mr Peter Walker, the former Minister of Agriculture, that he wanted Britain to produce more of its own food. "Now they turn round and tell us they don't want our milk any more."

Mr Peter Pratt from Stourport brought two Jersey cows to London with him. Now he said, Miss and Emma would both be sent for slaughter, even though Emma had produced more than 6,000 litres during her last milk season and was the daughter of a supreme champion at the Three Counties Show.

Concern over possible health risks has been voiced by the agricultural workers' section of the Transport and General Workers' Union and by the environment group Friends of the Earth.

The Government is to introduce statutory controls on the sale and use of pesticides "as soon as practicable", Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, told the Commons yesterday.

Concern over possible health risks has been voiced by the agricultural workers' section of the Transport and General Workers' Union and by the environment group Friends of the Earth.

The Government's contingency plans in the event of a collapse of local administration in Liverpool have so far stopped short of lining up a team of commissioners and advisers to be drafted into the city.

The Department of the Environment's line, reiterated by a spokesman yesterday, is that no breakdown is imminent, and the work commissioners would have to do would not become clear until much later to the events that might follow the passage by the city's Labour majority of a budget to which revenue fell short of spending.

It appears that informal soundings begun by Sir George Moseley, permanent secretary, have stopped at two former county chief executives, Sir James Swaffield and Sir John Boyton.

Sir James retired from the Greater London Council earlier this year after a period of rather strained relations with Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the council leader.

Sir John, formerly chief executive of Cheshire, did the same job during elections in Zimbabwe.

Other possible candidates are Mr Paul McQuail, a Department of the Environment under-secretary who has been seconded as chief executive of the London Borough of Hounslow for the past ten months, and Mr Keith Bridge, a former chief executive with financial experience who is now a consultant for Phillips and Drew the stockbrokers.

Mr John Gummer, chairman of the Conservative Party, visiting Merseyside yesterday, warned Liverpool council leaders that their "extremist rhetoric" could keep employers away from the city.

But he added that he was pleased that the council appeared to be allowing time to reach a solution to the budget dispute.

**Correction**

The £24m, the Government is to make available for the arts in the GLC and metropolitan counties areas after 1986 is not "extra", as a heading on April 12 stated. It is a substitution for local authority grants that are to be abolished.

## Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate

Bank of Scotland announce that with effect from 10th May 1984 Bank of Scotland Home Loan Rate will be increased from 10½% to 11% per annum.

Bank of Scotland Head Office, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ.

**BANK OF SCOTLAND**

## Apex staff strike hits union

Two hundred and twenty secretarial and administrative staff employed by the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staff are in official dispute over a pay claim.

The staff are members of another white-collar union, the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff ASTMS, and has refused to improve on an offer of a 3.81 per cent salary increase. The staff is asking for an increase of 5.31 per cent, which represents the increase in the cost of living since their last settlement.

The dispute has led to a half-day stoppage at the ASTMS head office in London. Tomorrow every ASTMS office throughout the country will be affected by a one-day strike. Apex members are also refusing to work overtime or provide cover for absent colleagues.

## EEC wine at 7p for Russia

Surplus wine from the EEC "surplus" is being sold to the Soviet Union at less than 7p a litre, according to figures issued by Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Russians are also able to buy flour for 5p a pound, beef and pork at 40p a pound, butter at 53p a pound and sugar at 7p a pound.

## Pesticide use to be curbed

The Government is to introduce statutory controls on the sale and use of pesticides "as soon as practicable", Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, told the Commons yesterday.

Concern over possible health risks has been voiced by the agricultural workers' section of the Transport and General Workers' Union and by the environment group Friends of the Earth.

## State will boost arts patronage

The Minister for the Arts, Lord Gowrie, announced a new £1m-a-year scheme yesterday, under which the Government will provide matching grants for arts bodies which have won new sponsorship from the private sector.

The scheme will start on October 1 and will be administered by the Association of Business Sponsors of the Arts. It will be open to any business creating new or additional sponsorship for professional arts bodies, including craft and film.

## Boom in 'top job' advertising

Recruitment advertising for managers and senior specialist staff has reached its highest level for 18 years according to a survey by the Hay-MSL management consultancy, which has counted the number of executive jobs advertised in Britain's national newspapers since 1959.

Between January and March this year 10,367 advertisements appeared. That was an increase of 17 per cent compared with the first three months of 1983 and a 61 per cent increase compared with the lowest point of the last quarter of 1980.

## Labour sheriff back in fold

The Sheriff of Nottingham, Mr Dennis Birkinshaw, who resigned from the Labour Party 10 days ago to protest over "extremists", rejoined the Nottingham Council Labour group yesterday.

Hostile and threatening telephone calls had affected his wife's health, he said.

## Strikes disrupt schools

Civil Service unions fear the Treasury is about to ballot 500,000 white-collar staff to win approval for a rejected 3.7 per cent pay offer.

Union leaders argue that the move is based on the Treasury's refusal to guarantee that it will not ballot civil servants.

Next week's conferences of the unions will debate motions demanding industrial action if the Government refuses to make an offer equivalent to the 5 to 7 per cent stated by the Office of Manpower Economics as the average that civil servants need to match private sector settlements.

Union fears were heightened when they learned that staff in the Ministry of Defence and Department of Health and Social Security were being approached by managers for their addresses.

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In Hampshire, 50 members walked out, forcing 2,158 children to be sent home from four schools, although none of the schools closed altogether.

Similar action will continue

indefinitely in the county, with the union choosing different schools and teachers every day.

On the Isle of Wight, 3,000 children were sent home three schools for half the day after 73 NAS/UWT members were pulled out.

The Super 748: Hopes of a bigger order

British Airways announced a £49 London-Amsterdam return fare yesterday, claiming it could herald off-peak reductions throughout Europe (Our Transport Editor writes).

The fare, due to start on July 1, is nearly £40 cheaper than the present lowest. It was announced as Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, battled at the Council of Ministers for a cheap fare deal throughout Europe.

The Dutch KLM airline will introduce a similar fare simultaneously.

Customers will buy undated tickets and initially have seats confirmed the day before flying.

British Airways said the scheme could be extended to all European routes reducing fares almost to the level of rail and sea fares.

The 748 order was announced in London yesterday by Lord King, chairman of the airline, and Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of British Aerospace.

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The 748 order

## BBC musician contest accused of ruining young players' lives

By Colin Hughes

The rising dominance of music competitions over the lives of young artists is ruining the futures of Britain's most promising young talents and threatening the development of musical excellence, a report to be published next month says.

A working party of the European String Teachers Association, which has studied the hundreds of competitions which have burgeoned in recent years, singled out the BBC's popular Young Musician of the Year contest for particular criticism, calling it a "degrading musical equivalent of the Miss World contest".

Miss Anna Markland, winner of the BBC's competition 1982, last night countered the criticism by saying that she had found "nothing but good" came of it.

Since winning she has obtained 40 to 50 engagements a season, won a place to start studying for a degree at Worcester College, Oxford University from October.

Many of the semi-finalists and runners-up also received offers, so one person's victory was not necessarily at the expense of others, she said.

Mr Roy Tipping, senior producer of Young Musician of the Year, who has worked on all four competitions since 1978 and sat on the working party as an observer, said he did not

believe the association's fears were well founded.

Many young players who had lost in early stages of previous competition had now become young professionals, and he was confident that the 2,500 young people who had taken part in the past six years had found it "positive and rewarding".

The association says that competitions convert musical performance into a gladiatorial sport, cultivating artificial "stars", who pursue a "jet-propelled" series of engagements. Musical sensitivity is sacrificed for physical toughness and inexperienced performers are overwhelmed by the pressure.

"The unceasing search for new sensations greatly increases the number of young musicians who are going to suffer the personal and professional disaster of instant glory followed by total oblivion," the report says.

Brilliant musicians who need time to develop and choose not to concentrate on technical accuracy, which is all competitions can judge, are left by the wayside. Most musicians dislike competing, but side by side with the mushrooming of competitions has gone the elimination of other avenues into the profession."

The working party, composed of 15 professional musicians and teachers who have judged competitions, accepts that young musicians should offer prizes such as master classes, summer schools, help to buy instruments and fund study-time.

*Music Competitions, a Report* — ESTA, Alfred Russell, Baron's Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W14 £1.

motives of most competition organizers is to stimulate and encourage young people.

They conclude, however: "Competition in music is not only inappropriate but can also be exceedingly harmful and therefore, ideally, should play no part in musical life."

Scorn is reserved for the BBC competition, where the working party describes the "futile impossibility" of picking a winner out of the four finalists, who are playing different types of music on different instruments.

Independent television's *Fanfare*, the National Festival of Music for Youth, and the Chamber Music Competition for Schools are credited with encouraging participation among performers, but even they incorporate solo combat.

The association prefers contests modelled on the European Broadcasting Union's string quartet competition, or Yehudi Menuhin's Paris violin competition, which award equal prizes to every musician who produces an excellent performance.

Competitions for young musicians should offer prizes such as master classes, summer schools, help to buy instruments and fund study-time.

*Music Competitions, a Report* — ESTA, Alfred Russell, Baron's Keep, Gliddon Road, London, W14 £1.

## Trainer lied for glory of first win

From Our Correspondent

A racehorse trainer told a "pack of lies" to the racing authorities for the glory of running his first winner, York Crown Court was told yesterday. Mr Stephen Wiles said that he gave false information to the Jockey Club about a horse he knew as Flockton Grey.

He had made the false statement after being assured by its owners that the horse was a sure winner if it were entered for races. But he has said he had seen the horse only briefly when it was officially named at his yard.

It is alleged that the horse was given the false identity to provide a better coup for its owner, Kenneth Richardson, aged 47, and his racing manager, Colin Mathison, aged 46.

Mr Richardson, of Jubilee House, Hutton, near Driffield, North Humberside, Mr Mathison of Driffield, and Mr Peter Boddy, aged 39, a horse box driver, also f. Driffield, deny conspiracy to defraud and obtain property by deception.

The trial continues today.

## Freeze considered on council house building

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government is seriously considering a total freeze on new council house building and new grants for home improvement.

Officials at the Department of the Environment and the Treasury are studying projections which show that councils in England could exceed housing cash limits by £300m in 1984-85 and that total capital expenditure could exceed £500m.

In response, ministers are likely next month or in early July to order a complete ban on councils signing new building contracts for schools and roads as well as for housing. No further home improvement grants would be made for a period of at least four months, possibly during the rest of the financial year.

Such a freeze would dismay the building industry and do-it-yourself firms.

The problem, according to returns now being made by councils, is that many local authorities took the Prime Minister at her word when, in October 1982, she berated them

for not spending enough on capital projects. Councils approved a series of schemes, many of which are only now coming on stream, pushing up costs in the current financial year above the level the Treasury planned.

In previous years, councils' spending on housing has been buoyed up by unexpectedly large receipts from the sale of council houses to tenants. This year, however, receipts are falling and although they may turn out to be what the Treasury computed (about £1.465m in England in 1984-85) they will be insufficient to pay for the building projects now on councils' books.

A spokesman for the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday: "Two years ago councils were 'underspending' on housing by at least £1,000m. Now it is time for the Government to return some of that money they saved."

Nearly a quarter of all tenants in Britain are now in rent arrears and at least £240m is owed in rent to local authorities.

## High-speed Gatwick link opened

Gatwick airport's new, high-speed rail link with Victoria Station was formally opened yesterday. It will start public service on Monday.

Air-conditioned Gatwick Express trains will make the 30-minute journey every 15 minutes, separating airline passengers with their heavy baggage from ordinary commuters. By providing a greater speed and comfort the service is expected to double rail traffic on the route to eight million over the next decade.

## Two appear on terror charges

Two Northern Ireland men appeared before Lambeth Magistrates court, London, yesterday, on murder, explosives and firearms charges.

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, who faces 10 charges, including murder, attempted murder and causing explosions, and Paul Kavanagh, aged 28, who faces two charges of causing explosions, three of possessing firearms and one of possessing explosives, were remanded in custody until May 17.

## Jack Nicholson wins libel case

Jack Nicholson, the Academy Award-winning actor, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday against the Sun newspaper, which had alleged that he had been arrested for drug offences.

The newspaper acknowledged that the American actor had never been arrested for any drug offence and offered an unqualified apology. It agreed to pay undisclosed damages and Mr Nicholson's costs.

## £10,089 an acre for farmland

The price of agricultural land in Britain has reached a record level with the sale of 30.7 acres on the Lincolnshire coast for £31,000, an average of £10,089 per acre.

The land was part of the 310-acre Hall Farm and Country House at Wrangle, near Boston.

Detail from the Hogarth portrait, valued at £290,000

## Six-month export ban on Hogarth painting

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A beautifully painted portrait of a bewigged mathematician in a brown velvet suit by William Hogarth has been denied an export licence by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art.

The licence had been applied for by Baskett and Day, the Bond Street dealers, at a valuation of £290,000. Mr John Baskett is not disclosing the name of his client but it is believed to be the Mellon Centre for British Art at Yale.

The committee met earlier this week and decided to recommend that a licence should be held for six months. Their recommendations are almost always accepted by the arts minister.

"The committee retired for a very long time", Mr Baskett said yesterday. "I began to think a fight had broken out. It turned out that it was the length of time the licence should be held that they were wrangling over."

There has been a recent tendency to increase the delay period on export licences to give British galleries a better chance to raise the purchase price needed to keep the item in Britain permanently.



Bouncing back: Andrew Hardwick, aged two, in playful mood after his liver transplant at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Andrew, who had his operation last week, is now getting up to mischief, his parents said yesterday. "It shows he is really on the mend and we just love it", his father, Mr Ron Hardwick, of Shafton, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, said. Andrew is now so well that doctors have allowed him to eat bacon and eggs.

## Kicking charge policeman 'protecting himself'

From Our Correspondent, Preston

A young Liverpool police constable accused of kicking a demonstrator in the face yesterday that he was trying to push the man out of the way to protect himself.

PC Karl Kneale, who denies assault, told a jury at Preston Crown Court that he did not kick Michael O'Brien in the face and said in a statement that he felt he had been "tried and convicted" in a photograph published in most national newspapers.

Mr Michael Wolfe, for the prosecution, has said that PC Kneale was photographed the instant he delivered a deliberate kick to Mr O'Brien during a "Free Dennis Kelly" demonstration outside Walton Prison.

PC Kneale, aged 23, of Tyneville Road, Walton, said that, as a coach carrying Kelly, a convicted killer, came out of prison, demonstrators were making "desperate attempts" to throw themselves in its path.

After he had shouted at them to get off the road, Mr O'Brien deliberately punched him

Police Constable Brian Renton, who is accused of blinding Mr Barry Carlill, said yesterday that he hit him by accident.

He told Southwark Crown Court that the 6ft 7in businessman struck out while being searched at Islington police station, north London.

PC Renton said: "He pushed me away and as I started to move towards him I saw his fist coming towards me. I instinctively took my head out of the way and my right hand shot up.

After he had shouted at them to get off the road, Mr O'Brien deliberately punched him

or head. I had not intended to. The next thing I remember was him putting his hand to his face. He pushed me away and I saw blood streaming through his fingers. I felt terrible."

PC Renton, a former RAF boxer, said he drank six pints at a detective's leaving party but its only effect was making him "a little bit happier".

PC Renton, aged 26, of Highbury, north London, denies causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Carlill, aged 36, of Bloomsbury, central London.

The trial continues today.

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## Private care in NHS offered to cut fees

By Nicholas Timmins

Private Patients Plan, Britain's second largest medical insurer, has revamped its subscription rates to encourage companies to cover their employees for private care in National Health Service hospitals and the less luxurious hospitals.

The change will mean that for the first time employees are likely to be asked to contribute between £55 and £200 towards the cost of their treatment under some schemes.

The move initially affects only PPP's corporate health plan, where the company pays employees' subscriptions. That involves about one-third of the one million people covered by PPP and is the fastest growing sector of the market. But similar packages are on the way next year for PPP's voluntary groups and individual subscribers.

The move is one more attempt by the private medical insurers to control the increasing cost of private treatment.

Under the scheme, PPP says it has arranged cost-cutting agreements with most private hospitals. Employers can opt for one of four bands of cover from D, which covers pay beds in most NHS provincial hospitals and the lower priced provincial private hospitals, to A, which covers the most expensive private hospitals in London.

For routine operations, employees will in effect be restricted to the category of hospital chosen for cover. But for 41 "complex" procedures, including open heart surgery, hip transplants, neurosurgery and hysterectomies, employees will still be covered for treatment in any hospital.

Companies will be able to reduce their premiums by another 15 per cent by stipulating that their employees will pay the first £55 in any one year for treatment in a group D hospital, up to the first £200 in A band hospitals.

## SELF-EMPLOYED? NO PENSION WITH YOUR JOB? KEEP THIS PAGE.

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If you start early and pay as much as you can, the projected benefits can be spectacular. However, at any age younger than 65 (and still working) you can join the scheme. At the outset you select a

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## PARLIAMENT May 10 1984

# Thatcher 'utterly condemns' picket line violence

## COAL DISPUTE

The picket line violence between striking miners and police at Rotherham and Hartlepool was "utterly abhorrent", condemned by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, during exchanges in the Commons on the coal strike.

She said those who practised such violence further industrial ends should cease and she congratulated the police for the way they carried out their duties to enable those miners who wished to work to do so.

Mr Tony Benn told the Prime Minister that she would "never, never, never" starve the miners back into accepting a programme of mass pit closures.

Mr Fergus Montgomery (Altringham and Sale, C) began the exchanges when he said: "Will the Prime Minister, at this critical time in the coal dispute, restore her confidence and commitment to the long-term future of the coal industry? Would she agree it is customers, not subsidies, that will guarantee success?"

Mrs Thatcher: He is right. This Government wishes to see a prosperous coal industry for the future. Top end, it believes that the pay offer which has been made will amount to wages 25 per cent above the average industry wage, that is the swollen record of investment amounting to £2m a day in good new coal mines and the very good voluntary redundancy payments are the best ever offered, and offer very good prospects for the future of the coal industry if we will go to work and cut coal where there are orders which have recently been obtained.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, told the Prime Minister trouble by the growing violence at Rotherham and Hartlepool between miners and police and also by the warning of the British Steel chairman about the long-term threat to the steel industry.

If the disruption goes on, does she accept ministers do have a responsibility in this deteriorating climate to bring the parties

together rather than act as idle spectators in a tug of war in which the British economy is the rope?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree we must totally and utterly condemn violence and its use to further industrial ends. We hope it will be reduced. We must also congratulate the police for the way in which they have carried out their duties in seeing that those who sought to get to their place of work can do so.

The way ahead is to condemn violence and to see that those who are practising it cease to practice it.

Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln, C): Applications by industry for the coal conversion scheme have fallen from some 20 a month before the troubles to just three a month now. This is another example where, if we are to have a coal industry with a secure future, it is essential markets be first won, and then secured.

Mr Tony Benn (West Bromwich, C): The Government made available subsidies for industries who wished to turn to coal as a means of producing energy which they require. Obviously, industries who turn over to coal must have a guarantee of security or supply otherwise they will not make the change.

IC1 has deferred a decision on whether to go ahead to 1986 until the end of the strike. Should that again turn over to coal, that would mean another thousand jobs in Durham, just exactly where they are needed; another example of where there is an order waiting to be picked up.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab): When will the Prime Minister realize she will never, never, never starve the miners back (LOUD Conservative protest) into accepting a programme of mass pit closures that will dent the nation the coal which it needs for the future prosperity of our industry?

Mrs Thatcher: The Labour Government during its 10 years closed 300 pits. Our Conservative Government closed 92. Is he discrediting previous Labour Governments?

Many miners are fortunately exercising their right to go to work and are producing coal. Those who are not are losing something like £20m in wages.

unacceptable activities of South African diplomats and because the vast majority of the people of this country are repelled by apartheid?

Mrs Thatcher: The answer is no in each case.

**Soviet move over Olympics regretted**

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that she hoped the Soviet Olympic Committee was reconsidering its apparent decision not to participate in the Olympics.

She was replying to Mr Tony Benn (Newham, North-West, Lab) who mentioned the decision of the Soviet Union, Algeria and Bulgaria not to take part and said that Mrs Thatcher had set a bad example by her hatched-up attempt to prevent British teams going to Moscow in 1980.

He also asked her to support the establishment of a permanent site in Greece, with United Nations status.

Mrs Thatcher replied that the position in 1980 had been different. That had been soon after the Soviet Union action in Afghanistan, which country is still occupied. That was totally different to the conditions in which the Olympics were being held in Los Angeles.



## Economic summit to discuss US deficit

## INTEREST RATES

The prospect of further reductions in the United States budget deficit may well be raised at the London economic summit next month. Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, indicated during Treasury questions.

He told MPs that there had already been a number of discussions with the US administration about the need to reduce the deficit and the effect of American interest rates on base rates in Britain.

Mrs Thatcher: He is (the said) sign of a welcome change in the attitude of the American Government towards their deficit.

They have now decided to make what they call a down payment of \$15,000 reduction in the deficit over three years.

Their description of it as a down payment leads to the inference that there are further reductions yet to come. That is something which may well be discussed at the economic summit next month.

The Chancellor was responding to Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield North, C), who had asked what action he was going to take in conjunction with other European countries to try to persuade the US to reduce their deficit.

Earlier, when asked about a target for the exchange rate, Mr Lawson said: We cannot be wholly immune

between now and the recess.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab): Will the Prime Minister realize she will never, never, never starve the miners back (LOUD Conservative protest) into accepting a programme of mass pit closures that will dent the nation the coal which it needs for the future prosperity of our industry?

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Mrs Thatcher: The answer is no in each case.

**Apologies to Belgium for violence**

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, apologised to the Belgian authorities for the violence in Brussels last night involving supporters of Tottenham Hotspur FC who had attended a match there.

She said: We are deeply concerned about the violence in Brussels last night and totally and utterly condemn it.

There have been a number of cases of violence, not in the stadium, but before and after the match. A special committee was set up after previous examples of violence in Luxembourg and it will report shortly. I condemn the violence which was a disgrace to Britain and we deeply apologise for it.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) had urged her to send a message of apology to the Belgian government and also to Belgian magistrates saying that when these things came before them they should show no mercy and if necessary keep them in custody for yet another football season, which would please the British people.

Mr John McDonald (Carshalton, C) asked her to send a message of apology to the Belgian government and also to Belgian magistrates saying that when these things came before them they should show no mercy and if necessary keep them in custody for yet another football season, which would please the British people.

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## Unemployment increasing among Oxford arts graduates

By Colin Hughes

More Oxford University arts graduates are leaving college to join the dole queue or take short-term jobs but prospects for science graduates are improving, a report by the university's Appointments Committee reveals.

The rate of unemployment among Oxford leavers stayed steady at 6.3 per cent last year, about half the national average. But the split between arts and science students widened.

Of arts and humanities students leaving last year 10.1 per cent of men and 12.8 per cent of women were unemployed or entered short-term jobs, compared with 9.8 per cent for men and 10.3 per cent for women the year before.

Science students fared better. Of men who graduated last year 6.4 per cent were unemployed or in short-term work, compared with 7.5 per cent the year before, and the same figure for women fell from 6.3 per cent of 1982 leavers to 5.8 per cent of last year's.

The committee says that Oxford students, like those from other universities, are now having to cast their net over a wider range of prospective employers, apply later, accept lower positions and consider vocational training before applying for full-time posts.

One of the sharpest and most surprising changes is in the law.

Numbers choosing the uncertain future of training for the Bar rose to 44 last year and only 29 of those read law at college.

Among those choosing to become solicitors the reverse was true. Last year 136 students

## Fred Astaire celebrates 85 happy years

Hollywood (AFP) — Fred Astaire, acclaimed as the world's greatest dancer by fellow artists, yesterday celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday with his wife in their Beverly Hills luxury villa.

"I never really thought about my age until I reached 80. Then everybody made a big thing of it, and people were saying 'Oh, he's one of those octogenarians... Well, I didn't feel any different then and I don't now," he told friends. "My health is good, I'm happy and I'm doing what I want to do, so what's all the fuss about?"

Fred Astaire is one of Hollywood's more discreet stars, refusing to accept American university honorary degrees or take part in television programmes dedicated to his career. But two years ago, after hesitating for a long time, he agreed to be honoured by the American Film Institute.

Producers still come to him with offers. He made his last film *Giant Story* only two years ago. But one thing is certain; he will never tap dance professionally again.

The man described by the Russian choreographer George Balanchine, and by Rudolph Nureyev, as the world's greatest dancer says today, apparently without regret: "It is a part of my career which is over. I am an actor now."

Born Frederick Austerlitz on May 10, 1899 in Omaha,



Merry dance: Fred Astaire pictured left celebrating his 85th birthday and, right, in his heyday with Ginger Rogers.

Nebraska, he was seven years old when he started dancing.

Fred Astaire was attracted by Hollywood, and went there for a test. The verdict has become film history: "... Can't act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little."

Nevertheless, he managed to get a small part in 1933 in *Dancing Lady*, starring Joan Crawford. The same year he married Phyllis Poter and shortly afterwards made his

first film with an almost unknown dancer, Ginger Rogers.

A long line of films followed which charmed the entire world, including *Roberta*, *Top Hat*, *Follow the Fleet*, *Swing Time*, *Shall We Dance*.

Today Fred Astaire lives with his second wife, a former jockey 45 years younger than his husband, far away from the Hollywood daily showbusiness scene. As he grows older, he is less critical of his films. "I see them on television once in a while, and you know, they are pretty darned good."

## Court to investigate Pinochet land deal

Santiago (Reuters) — Chile's appeal court has appointed one of its members to investigate alleged irregularities in the purchase of land for a private house by President Augusto Pinochet.

The case was referred to a plenary session of the appeals court by the Supreme Court, which last week received a petition from prominent opponents of the military government saying that General Pinochet could have broken fraud and conflict of interest laws.

For several days, senior military and government figures have paraded before television cameras offering the President their support and dismissing the charges, while he has assured them that he has done nothing wrong or unethical.

## Yugoslavs go on trial for criticizing regime

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

Two of the 28 Belgrade participants in "unauthorized political gatherings" and public debate.

The article under which the two men will be charged provides for a sentence of up to 10 years for a so-called verbal political offence. A number of Yugoslav lawyers and intellectuals recently urged the abolition of this offence. Under it verbal criticism is a criminal offence and this has sometimes been interpreted by the authorities to make the slightest critical remark a crime.

## Wass attack on Tisdall jailing

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Douglas Wass, former Joint Head of the Home Civil Service, today attacks the jailing of Miss Sarah Tisdall, the Foreign Office clerk sentenced in March under section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, for leaking a confidential minute about the deployment of cruise missiles to a newspaper.

In a book review published in *The Times Educational Supplement*, Sir Douglas writes: "We must be almost alone in the civilized world in invoking the criminal law to stop leaks irrespective of the nature of the injury caused or the intentions of the leaker."

"Applying the criminal law to leaks which are merely embarrassing is quite unjustified."

Sir Douglas said yesterday: "I would have sacked her to summarily. But sending her to jail for six months is absurd."

In his review, Sir Douglas says "we must be careful" before denouncing people like Miss Tisdall out of hand. "The deterrent effect of a prosecution must be infinitesimal where the breach of trust by an otherwise



Sir Douglas: "I would have sacked her summarily".

loyal person is dictated by conscience."

Sir Douglas calls for a right of public access to official information to be established by statute. He praised the 1984 Campaign for Freedom of Information, to which he is an adviser, for having "leaned over backwards to be responsible".

As a former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, he says the campaign is too cautious about the need to keep information about the currency secret.

## Protests over public bird-killing contest

Police and the RSPCA are investigating plans for a public competition in which young people will kill poultry.

The competition instructions read: "Kill and pluck one bird. If a competitor is unable to kill a bird, assistance will be given at a loss of 10 penalty points."

The competition, planned by Bedfordshire Young Farmers at an agricultural rally at Battlesden, near Woburn, on May 19, has sections for under-16s, under-21s and seniors.

Chief Inspector Tony Sheridan, of Biggleswade police,

### Sun distorted replies on video nasty

A report in *The Sun* which quoted a sociology lecturer as saying he would happily show a "video nasty" to his daughter aged nine distorted his replies and misleadingly omitted qualifications he made to answers, the Press Council says today.

The council upheld a complaint by Mr Martin Barker, a lecturer in sociology at Bristol Polytechnic, that the paper distorted replies which he gave when interviewed and omitted his qualifying statements, and that an explanatory statement offered by the newspaper was an inadequate remedy.

After an article by Mr Barker appeared in *New Society* Mr John Kay of *The Sun* telephoned Mr Barker and wrote a report which appeared under the headline "Let kids see nasty TV videos". It began: "A college lecturer switched on a furious row yesterday when he urged parents: 'Let your children watch video nasties'."

Mr Barker said he was asked whether he would let his children watch a video nasty? He had replied he would not refuse but would want to talk to the child.

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## Reagan's speech on Central America wins back support

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan's strongly-worded broadcast on Central America on Wednesday night appears not only to have succeeded in persuading Congress finally to approve his request for increased aid to El Salvador, but also may have defused Central America as an issue in the US Presidential elections.

The President said the United States had a strategic as well as a moral interest in helping to resist the spread of Soviet - and Cuban-backed communist subversion in Central America. Unless it assisted struggling democracies such as El Salvador, the alternative would be "a communist Central America with additional communist bases on the mainland of this hemisphere, and communist subversion spreading southward and northward."

The President sought to allay widespread fears among the American public about growing US military involvement in the region. The issue was "definitely not about plans to send American troops into combat in Central America", he said.

But he made it clear that his Administration would continue to support Nicaraguan rebels, whom he referred to as "freedom fighters", in their Central Intelligence Agency-financed struggle against the left-wing Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

The President spoke shortly before the World Court in The Hague called on the United States to end its support for the Nicaraguan rebels, known as "contras".

The Sandinistas, he claimed, were carrying out "a communist reign of terror" in their country and were now trying "to export their terror to every other country in the region".

The President's Democratic critics yesterday predicted he would now get most of the money he had been seeking to bolster El Salvador's armed forces in their battle against left-wing insurgents, particularly in view of the apparent victory of

**Karamanlis renews Games offer**

By Our Foreign Staff

President Karamanlis of Greece has renewed his offer of a permanent site for the Olympic Games in Greece in view of the crisis caused by the Soviet decision to boycott the Los Angeles games.

He said the decision had placed in serious jeopardy the future of a unique and age-old institution.

Instead of promoting ecumenical brotherhood the Olympic Games had become a factor of international tension and commercial exploitation. A permanent site for the Games would eliminate these disadvantages.

Meanwhile Vietnam has also pulled out of the Games. A Communist Party newspaper in Hanoi yesterday accused the US Government of drawing up plans to kidnap Vietnamese athletes.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania have not officially announced if they will join the Eastern bloc boycott begun in Moscow and followed up by East Berlin and Sofia.

Sources in Prague said yesterday that a "political decision" on Czechoslovakia's participation was likely to be taken in the next two days but was unlikely to be made public until a National Olympic Committee meeting on May 17.

France, Japan and the Vatican can all stepped into the Olympic dispute. M Nelson Paillou, President of the French Olympic Committee sent a telegram yesterday pleading with his Soviet counterpart to save the Olympic movement from a "fatal blow".



All the president's men: Lebanon's national unity Cabinet holding its first working session under the chairmanship of President Gemayel (centre)

## Cabinet's first job to reform Lebanon army

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Lebanon's "national unity" Cabinet held its first meeting yesterday and quickly agreed to present its platform to the Lebanese Parliament.

"We are now marching towards peace," Mr Gemayel said in a statement broadcast on state radio after the Cabinet session. He also said that the ministers would meet again today, with the country's

hamstrung transportation system at the top of the agenda.

Beirut's port and airport have been closed since February 6, and all but one road between the Christian and Muslim sectors of the capital are closed. In the rest of the country, many roads are impassable.

President Gemayel, who chaired the meeting at his

summer palace in Bikfaya, 10 miles north-east of Beirut, told reporters: "The atmosphere was good."

In fact, the session marked the first since the start of the civil war in 1975 that the country's principal "varolos" - all given ministerial posts in the new Government - gathered around a table in their own country.

## China and Vietnam in clashes

Kunming, China (Reuters) - Chinese frontier guards repulsed several Vietnamese raids in the past week in the southern border regions of Yunnan and Guangxi, according to the New China news agency.

A senior official in Yunnan rejected charges by Vietnam that Chinese forces were mounting their own attacks across the frontier.

## Useful meeting

Peking - Britain and China had "useful and constructive talks" on the future of Hong Kong yesterday and the day before, according to a British Embassy spokesman. The next round of talks, the fifteenth, will be held on May 30-31 in Peking.

## Mauroy better

Paris - M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, who has been in hospital since May 4 suffering from an undefined lung infection, is expected to leave hospital tomorrow and resume his duties in full-on Monday.

## Taiwan charge

Taipei (Reuters) - A former senior Taiwanese official, Mr Pai Chi-Ho, aged 66, has been charged with forgery and corruption in connexion with a loan fraud involving £2.2m.

## Dock blaze

San Francisco (AP) - A fire destroyed two piers and caused at least \$2.5m (£1.8m) on the San Francisco waterfront. The city fire chief said it was the worst blaze he had ever seen on the waterfront.

## Briton jailed

Paris - David Wilson, a 42-year-old Briton, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment in Bayonne for trying to take 238lb of cannabis into France from Spain in December.

## Sniper gives up

Quebec City (Reuters) - A sniper who shot and wounded two passers-by on Wednesday surrendered early yesterday, after a 24-hour siege of his house. He was named as Jean-Claude Nadeau, aged 39.

## Correction

The 831 deaths in South Africa last year were 24 more than in 1982, not 230 more, as stated on May 4.

## Ethiopia blast confirms Libya terror links

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The house in Addis Ababa where five Libyans and an Ethiopian died in a mystery explosion is thought to have been used as an arsenal for "liberation" movements in the Horn of Africa.

Several other people were injured and the death toll may rise, according to sources in the Ethiopian capital, who say the blast was caused by a device of some kind inside the house.

The Libyan's Bureau (embassy) in the city refused to answer the telephone or open the door to callers, and the Ethiopian Government is unlikely to make any statement regarding the incident.

Officials would not discuss specific proposals which are being considered. The advice given to firms at present is to use their "commercial judgment" on matters which arise, while British citizens in Libya have been told that they should consider their situation carefully.

A promise of support for Colonel Gaddafi came yesterday from Iran's Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Akbar Yellayati, left for Tripoli with a good-will message, according to the Iranian National News Agency (Irna).

Before he left Tehran, Mr Yellayati accused the United States and its allies of mounting extensive plots against the Gaddafi regime, a reference to Libya itself.

The Italian Embassy in Tripoli is looking after British interests meanwhile, together with two British consular officials who have remained there. But the Foreign Office points out that this arrangement can be no proper substitute for a full-scale embassy.

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## Sri Lanka all-party talks face collapse as Tamils threaten to quit

From Michael Hanley  
Colombo

The all-party conference launched by the Sri Lankan Government of Mr J. R. Jayewardene with a national and international fanfare in January appears finally to be in the throes of disintegration.

Already boycotted by the leading opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party of Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the conference is now faced with a withdrawal by the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) and the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress (ACTC), the two principal parties of Sri Lanka's ethnic minority.

When the conference resumed on Wednesday after a seven-day break, the Government proposed, as was disclosed by *The Times* earlier, that two committees be formed. One would discuss the powers to be developed on local government bodies, the second would consider minority grievances in education, employment and language.

The TULF and the ACTC announced that they would not participate in the committees unless the conference first decided to what unit of local government the powers were to be devolved. Mr Amirthalingam told Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, that he would press for regional councils as the devolved authority. The TULF understood this to mean a combination of provincial councils, and on that basis were persuaded to attend the talks.

Annexure C, however, was rejected by the Buddhist clergy when the round-table talks began in January. Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister, told Parliament that



Mr Jayewardene: warning of explosion

to return the attention of the conference to a document known in conference jargon as "Annexure C".

This represented the fruit of the discussions between the Sri Lanks and the Indian governments in the latter part of last year. At the end of the process Mr Jayewardene – as reported by Mr Amirthalingam – told Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, that he would press for regional councils as the devolved authority. The TULF understood this to mean a combination of provincial councils, and on that basis were persuaded to attend the talks.

Annexure C, however, was rejected by the Buddhist clergy when the round-table talks began in January. Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister, told Parliament that

the Government would never agree to a devolved authority larger than the district council, and the President himself told me: "Anything further than district councils would cause an explosion."

The Tamils now feel that they have heard all this before. "We spent four years discussing the powers that should be devolved on district councils", Mr Amirthalingam said yesterday. "Now the President thinks he can do it all again in a fortnight."

"The Government has failed to make a serious effort at a negotiated settlement", Mr Amirthalingam added.

We have negotiated with them for years, and we have made it plain that district councils will never satisfy us. We thought that because of India's intervention at least they would honour their commitment to another government, but they seem to be treating their commitment to another government as they have treated ourselves."

Mr Amirthalingam was firm. "The all-party conference as it is at present functioning is an exercise in futility," he said.

The next move by the TULF is to launch a non-violent direct action protest movement against the effects of the emergency regulations on the Tamil population of the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. The protest is expected to begin in a month's time.



Kremlin ceremony: King Juan Carlos of Spain and Queen Sofia flanked by President Chernenko and his wife Anna in Moscow yesterday.

## Warm Moscow welcome for King of Spain

From Richard Owen  
Moscow

In a display of ceremonial which would have done the Russian *ancient regime* proud, the Soviet leadership yesterday gave King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain a glittering welcome as they began a six-day visit marking reconciliation between Russia and Spain.

The royal couple were met at Vnukovo airport by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister. The ministers' wives were also present.

together with a phalanx of Soviet officials. The Spanish King and Queen then sped in an official convoy of black limousines through flag-decked streets, smiling and waving at the citizens of republican, communist Russia, some of whom waved back.

The ministers' wives were also present at the Kremlin, where President Chernenko and his wife Anna Dmitrievna were waiting in front of the grand Kremlin Palace.

It is only the fourth encounter between a European mon-

arch and the heirs of the Workers' and Peasants' Revolution. King Juan Carlos is regarded as a benevolent embodiment of the principle of divine right constitutionally restricted – as he played a key role in restoring democracy after nearly four decades of fascist rule under General Franco. Memories are still strong in Soviet Russia of the Spanish Civil War. In which Moscow backed the republicans.

"Spain even has a socialist government," one official re-

marked yesterday. "Even if it is in Nato, Spain's Nato membership has been frozen pending a referendum."

*Pravda* yesterday praised

Soviet-Spanish relations as a

"bridge of co-operation"

and said that positive changes had taken root since Spain and Russia established diplomatic relations seven years ago, a comparatively short period of time.

The King is accompanied by the Spanish Foreign Minister, Senor Fernando Morán, who is to hold talks with Mr Gromyko,

## All political reporting banned in Pakistan

Islamabad (Reuters) Pakistani newspaper appeared yesterday without their usual sprinkling of political news and opposition statements after the military Government banned all reporting on outlawed political parties.

Newspaper editors said the Information Ministry issued the ban on Wednesday night, just after the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) condemned the Government's plan for elections by next March.

The indefinite ban covers all news and comments by or about politicians both inside and outside Pakistan, they said. Not even the names of parties which were banned in 1979 can be mentioned.

Officially Pakistan has no press censorship but editors say Information Ministry officials regularly telephone them with "advice" on which stories to suppress and which to play up.

Coverage of the opposition increased recently as politicians arrested before or during the MRD's two months of anti-government protests last autumn were freed and resumed their activities.

The 11-member MRD states that Pakistan faces a "crisis of unprecedented magnitude". It accused President Zia of treating the people with contempt and said basic human rights were denied, the Press muzzled, the judiciary crippled, the economy faltering and law and order deteriorating.

## Craxi turns down P2 resignations

From John Earle  
Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, yesterday rejected the resignations of his three Social Democratic ministers in a flare-up of the P2 scandal.

One of the three, Signor Pietro Longo, Minister of the Budget and Social Democrat party secretary, was in the list of more than 900 alleged members of the secret and now banned P2 masonic lodge, on interim report by Signora Tina Anselmi, the Christian Democratic chairwoman of Parliament's all-party P2 commission of inquiry, has said that the list was authentic.

The other two, Signor Franco Nicolazzi, Minister of Public Works and Signor Pierluigi Ronzani, Minister for the Regions, were not on the list.

Signor Longo, who has always denied membership, took them to an unexpected meeting with Signor Craxi, at the end of which it was announced that the three had expressed indignation at the "arbitrary judgements and defamatory intent" of the report offered to resign.

Signor Craxi, a Socialist, told them that he shared the feelings behind their protest.

Signor Longo contests the authenticity of the list.

## Police use whips on pupils

From Our Own Correspondent  
Johannesburg

Eighteen people were injured yesterday when police used sjamboks (whips) to disperse crowds of pupils in a fresh outbreak of violence at schools in black townships near Pretoria. Nearly all the injured were schoolchildren, though one policeman was reported to have been hurt by a stone thrown by a demonstrator.

The incidents occurred on the third day after the reopening of two high schools closed by many weeks of disturbances and boycotts of classes by pupils who say that the Government has failed to meet their grievances. A black schoolgirl was killed in clashes with police in February.

Most of the 6,000 pupils at the two schools turned up yesterday but refused to attend classes and milled about in the schoolyards demanding the release of one of their colleagues arrested by the police. The Department of Education and Training, which handles black education, says this is a matter to be settled between the police and the pupils.

Underlying the unrest are representative councils; the abolition of the age limit regulation which means that pupils over the age of 20 can be refused entry to school; and the abolition, or control, of corporal punishment.

## Nujoma face to face with South Africa

From Michael Hanley  
Johannesburg

South Africa, pursuing the acerbic diplomacy which began with agreements earlier this year with Mozambique and Angola, will be involved in a complex set of negotiations with its black neighbours today and tomorrow.

Most attention is focused on Lusaka, the Zambian capital, where Dr Willie van Niekerk, South Africa's Administrator-General in Namibia, arrived yesterday for talks today with Mr Sam Nujoma, the exiled leader of Swapo, the guerrilla organization fighting for Namibia's independence.

It is the first direct encounter between South Africa and Swapo since the abortive Geneva conference of January 1981, held under United Nations auspices. Swapo has been waging a desultory, but gradually intensifying war with South Africa for 18 years.

Mr Nujoma's position has been seriously weakened, however, by the February 16 security agreement between Angola and South Africa, which, in effect, has cut Swapo's access to Namibia from its bases in southern Angola.

Speaking in Parliament in Cape Town on Wednesday night, Mr "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, declared: "South Africa will not stand in the way of an agreement between Swapo and the internal parties. If they wish together to form a government of national unity, they can do it because it is their country and their right to do it. Then I have an entity with which I can negotiate."

The talks in Lusaka, Mr Botha contended, "have nothing to do with the South African Government as such", but were between Swapo and a delegation of the internal (ie non-violent) Namibian parties forming the so-called Multi-Party Conference, which arrived in Lusaka yesterday.

It is understood that Dr Van Niekerk and either President



Mr Sam Nujoma: Ready to negotiate

Kenneth Kaunda or else a very senior Zambian official will be joint chairman of the meeting. Apparently, however, this does not preclude Dr Van Niekerk from negotiating on South Africa's behalf.

Hitherto Mr Nujoma has always dismissed the internal parties as puppets and insisted that he will only talk to South Africa. However, he appears to have abandoned that position, and one of the internal parties, the Damara Council, as well as dissidents from another, Swaziland (South West Africa National Union), have left the Multi-Party Conference to form part of his delegation.

South Africa's aim, it is becoming clear, is to try to nudge the Namibian negotiating process towards a regional settlement, outside the framework of the United Nations, for which Pretoria has an intense dislike.

Meanwhile, a Swaziland delegation, led by the Prime Minister, Prince Dlamini, and senior members of the Limpopo, the inner royal council, arrived in Cape Town yesterday for talks today with Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, on security and economic matters.

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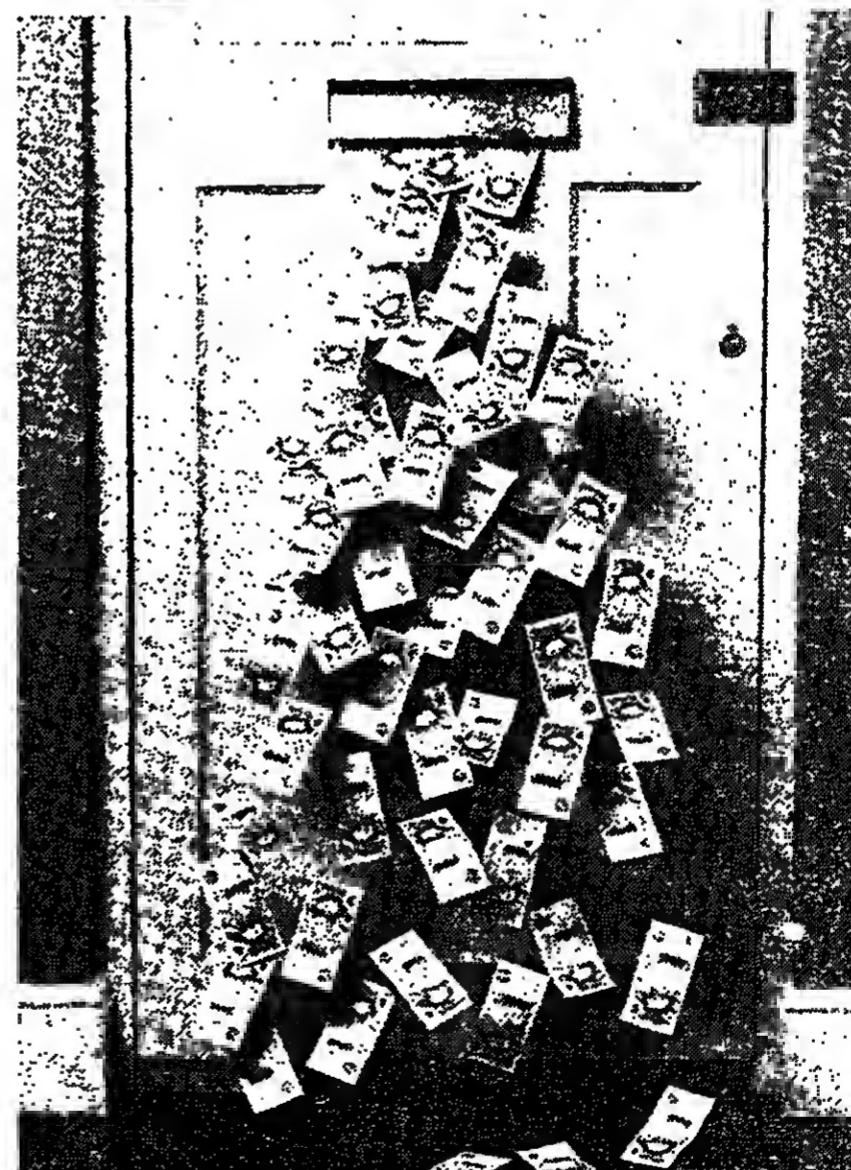
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AMBASSADOR LIFE

# Kohl's party defeats tax amnesty rebels and rallies behind him

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

After Chancellor Helmut Kohl's victory over party opponents of his plans for an amnesty for firms who evaded tax on party donations, West Germany's Christian Democrats yesterday rallied behind iron-clad attacks on the Social Democrats and on trade union calls for strikes to back demands for a 35-hour week.

Government ministers addressing the party congress here accused the unions of damaging the country's economic revival, and said the SPD and the Greens, with their suspicions of new technology and their message of economic and social gloom, offered no alternative to the successful CDU policies that alone would guarantee more jobs and budgetary discipline.

The defeat – by a majority of 473 to 178 – of the incipient revolt in party ranks, especially among young CDU supporters, over the amnesty plans removed the only challenge to the Chancellor at this three-day congress and suggests the Government will be able to ride out the storm over its controversial proposals. Under the amnesty, investigations into some 1,800 cases of tax evasion are to be dropped.

Herr Kohl defended this in a special debate on Wednesday afternoon on three grounds.

## Mrs Gandhi wins share in Sanjay's property

From Kuldip Nayar  
Delhi

The Delhi High Court ruled yesterday that Mrs Indira Gandhi was entitled to a share in property worth half a million rupees of her dead son, Mr Sanjay Gandhi.

Mrs Gandhi had claimed the share on the grounds that a Hindu mother was entitled to one third of her son's property.

She had also alleged in her petition that her daughter-in-law, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, was now allowing her to meet her grandson, Varun, Sanjay Gandhi's son. Mrs Maneka Gandhi in her reply contested her mother-in-law's claim to the property and pleaded that her concern for her grandson was only a "political gimmick".

The judge held Mrs Gandhi to be a Hindu. Although married to a Parsee, the

### Metalworkers call for strike

Frankfurt (Reuter) – About 250,000 key West German industrial workers belonging to I.G. Metall, the metalworkers' union, will be called out on a regional strike starting on Monday in support of a 35-hour week, a spokesman for the union, the country's largest, said last night.

Companies giving money to political parties had done so with a clear conscience, unaware they were breaking any tax laws, many financial supporters of the CDU had stuck by the party in difficult times in the past and the party should not leave them in the lurch; and so many people, including party treasurers, public prosecutors, politicians and businessmen, had ignored irregularities for so long that it was unfair to start the prosecutions now.

The amnesty was vigorously championed by Herr Josef Sirauss, the chairman of the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union and one of the main recipients of political donations, who stated bluntly: "To carry on a war you need money and ever more money, and election campaigns are a kind of war."

Opponents argued that it was a moral rather than a political issue. People's respect for the law would be damaged and the party brought into ill-repute. Herr Christopher Boehm, the chairman of the Junge Union (Young Conservatives), rejected the defence of acting in good faith, as this could also be applied to squatters and wine sweeteners.

But such arguments failed to sway the majority of delegates, who in a secret ballot gave the Government a clear mandate, though one that was considerably weaker than the party leadership might have hoped for at such a gathering, to drop the whole embarrassing issue.

Other debates were little more than a ritual endorsement of Government policies and a seal of approval on the undisputed leadership of Herr Kohl, whose reputation in his party is probably now at its height.

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Finance Minister, presented his plan for a massive tax cut of DM 20,000m (£5.168m) by 1986, but warned delegates that this would have to be paid for by higher indirect taxes.

Herr Norbert Blüm, the spirited Minister of Labour, exhorted West Germany to seize the opportunities the computer revolution presented for new patterns of work:

## Pope praises Thailand hospitality to refugees

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok

The Pope, who arrived in Bangkok yesterday for a two-day visit on the final stage of his Asian-Pacific tour, is expected to appeal to world governments to provide more aid for Indochinese refugees when he visits 18,000 of them at a camp outside Bangkok today. Many of the refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are Catholics.

During a meeting with King Bhumibol and other members of the royal family after his arrival from Papua New Guinea, the Pope praised Thailand's "generous hospitality to thousands and thousands of refugees", and said he had come to thank the King and the Thai people personally. He also spoke of Thailand's respect for man's right to religious freedom which, he told the King, "renders immense honour to your land".

The King in his response praised Catholic priests for bringing European science and technology as well as the Christian faith to Thailand.

Thailand is predominantly Buddhist but the King constitutionally is "the upholder of all religions", including Christianity.

Although Christianity has been in Thailand more than four centuries this is the first visit by a Pope. On his arrival from Port Moresby, he made his customary gesture, kneeling swiftly to kiss the ground.

After a meeting with the Supreme Patriarch, the head of Thailand's Buddhist hierarchy, the Pope, assisted by 500 Thai Catholic priests, conducted an open air Mass in the national stadium. Tens of thousands of Catholics flocked to Bangkok for the service while dancing and other displays by 2,500 children from Catholic schools and colleges.



Royal greeting: The Pope on his arrival in Thailand yesterday, accompanied by King Bhumibol and followed by Queen Sirikit.

## Russia says it is beating alcoholism

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva

The problem of alcoholism among Russians has been stabilized and is starting to show signs of a "certain decrease" according to Mr Sergei Petrovich Bourienkov, the Soviet Health Minister, who is attending the World Health Assembly.

He said the Soviet health authorities were "attentively following" the spread of the disease Aids in Europe, but no cases had yet been reported.

Asked about reports that both Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident leader who is confined to the city of Gorky, in poor health and needed proper medical treatment, he said: "Gorky has one of the largest and most modern hospitals in the USSR."

Sanjay Gandhi: Dispute over his estate

marriage took place according to Hindu rites.

In Punjab, the former head priest of the Amritsar golden temple, Pratap Singh, was shot dead at his residence

## Danes withhold part of missile site costs

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Denmark is to withhold the balance of its agreed contribution to the costs of setting up Pershing and cruise missile sites in fellow Nato states.

Parliament passed by 49 votes to 12 an opposition Social Democrat motion in defiance of the policies of the minority

Bangkok has never seen such security measures. More than 4,000 police and security men are deployed around the city. Outside the capital troops are on alert. A senior police officer described the Pope's visit as "an objective test of Thai security". The Thai authorities have obtained reports from foreign intelligence agencies about the whereabouts of international terrorists who might be a danger to the Pope.

Some Thai newspapers last night published unconfirmed reports that Thai police had been warned that the Venezuelan terrorist, "Carlos" was in Thailand.

The main fear of the authorities is that foreign terrorists might employ a local man to make an attack. Last week a Bangkok man masquerading as a security officer was arrested in a hospital room which the Pope will visit today.

Possible demonstrations against the Pope's visit by

## Australia broadens diplomatic role

From Tony Dubodoin, Melbourne

Mr Bill Hayden, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, leaves for an extensive overseas tour today become the first Australian to visit the Soviet Union in 20 years.

Mr Hayden flies first to London where he is expected to meet Mrs Thatcher before going to Paris to attend the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

## Britain still sees need for change at Unesco

From Diana Geddes  
Paris

Proposals for reform of Unesco, put forward by Mr Amadou M'Bow, its General Secretary, were encouraging but did not cover all areas of concern. Mr John Gordon, the UK permanent delegate, said yesterday.

"Naturally, we would want to explore more thoroughly the detailed implications of what he is proposing, and to see to what extent they conform with our own ideas on the need for change. But we feel that his proposals, as far as they go, are encouraging and in the right direction," he said.

In his opening speech to the 51-member executive board of Unesco, lasting three hours, Mr M'Bow put forward general proposals for improving personnel selection, decentralizing the organization's activities, removing secrecy from expenditure, and improving methods of evaluating its programmes.

He did not touch on criticisms concerning the "politicization" of programmes or financial mismanagement, which are at the heart of American, British and other Western complaints about Unesco.

Britain has said that it will have to reconsider its membership unless there are "significant indications of change" by the end of the year. The US has announced that it will definitely withdraw at the end of 1984 unless radical changes are made.

That is constitutionally impossible, however, as many of the changes would have to be approved at the next Unesco general conference, not due to take place until October 1985.

On May 17 the executive board is due to discuss the US decision to withdraw and Britain's position.

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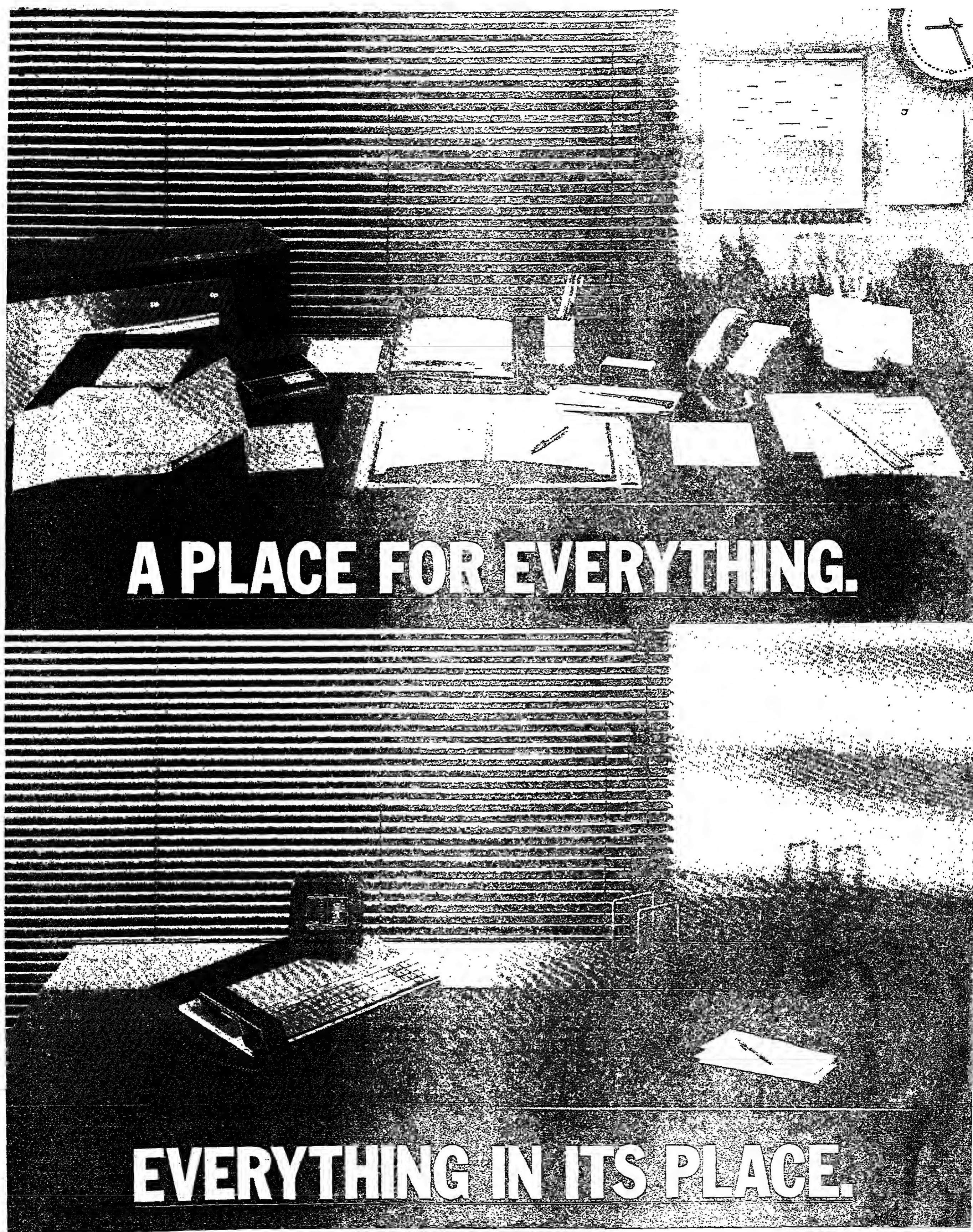
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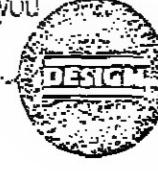
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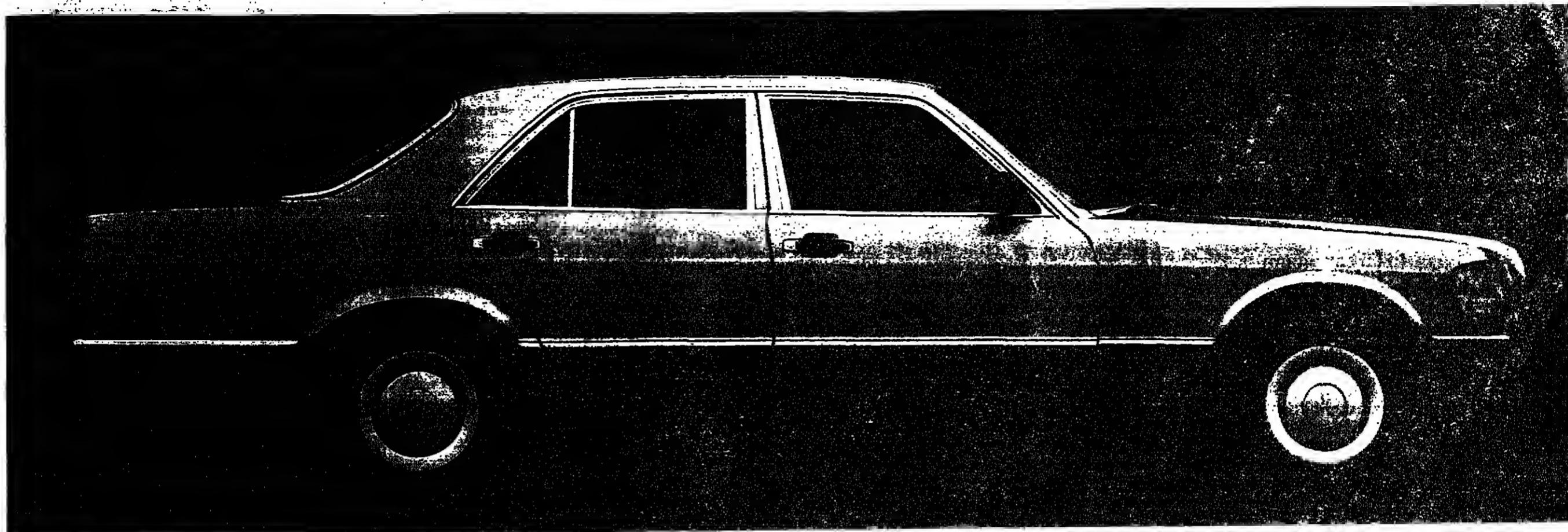


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## SPECTRUM



The Chieftains: when Irish eyes are smiling on the Great Wall of China

## The reel thing

Go into a record shop to buy an album by The Chieftains and you might have a hard time finding it. Are they a rock group or classical musicians, or are they Irish folk? Alan Franks listened to their words and music and helps to label them

Last Saturday the Irish music group The Chieftains played at a packed Festival Hall in London at the start of a four-city British tour to mark their 25th anniversary. During their time together they have probably done more than any other living musicians to raise a largely oppressed body of music from relative obscurity to a commodity in international demand. Last year they became the first western group to perform in ensemble with a Chinese folk orchestra, during a trip which is to be the basis of a film documentary. In their own country their records have now sold 250,000 copies, and they were performed in a live audience of 1,350,000 people in Dublin's Phoenix Park, even though as one of their number admits: "That was the Pope's idea". We were just the opening act.

In England they played the role for the Sadler's Wells' *Festive World*, and this did them anything else to enhance their standing as instead of a classical cause. It was the group's sell-out concert from the outset to restore a vague music downgraded in the cities of Ireland, and to do so with only such instruments as would have been traditionally available. Their only line-up of two fiddles, a whistle, flute and bod-

and all because they learned from their fathers and their grandfathers the old jigs and airs which purged out of them as naturally as Guinness went back the other way. An Irish joke in which the Irish win.

Yet there are clichés here, about Paddies making good on foreign shores, which have to be avoided. There was a resurgence of traditional music in Ireland back in the early 1950s that reflected a deep concern for the state of "Our Music". It is a matter of delight to Paddy Maloney, "which is perhaps a little surprising when you think that the Irish traditional music was probably much more healthy over there during the Thirties and Forties, being kept alive by the descendants of the famine immigrants. They'd got used to all that commercial stuff like *Does Your Mother Come From Ireland?*", which, let's face it, was written by some enterprising Polish expatriate.

The result is a far cry from the received image of Aran-clad rustics keening out dirges of numbering length. What is being heard this month, in venues as diverse as Exeter Cathedral and a school in Newbury, is music of astonishing rhythmic and melodic complexity in which the eighteenth century Italian mode lives in great harmony with the Gaelic.

The hands fan out to gather the timeless cadences

The really funny thing about their rise to international fame is that precisely because of the "category problem", they have one foot in the world of rock concerts and film scores and, on all the usual criteria of record and ticket sales, have very nearly superstar status. Funny because of the sheer implausibility of it all: lads - no grown men from Dublin and Ulster - and Roscommon - sharing the bill with the Rolling Stones, or being invited to play at the Capital by Tip O'Neill, or doing a recording with Art Garfunkel:

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## FINDINGS

A series reporting on research:  
**BATS**

## Well-trod paths

Bats travel. A female Leisler's is marked in the Midlands in 1980 and has just been found dead in a cellar in Devon, 150 miles away. The longest flight recorded previously was 63 miles by a pipistrelle in East Anglia. Some 20,000 bats have now been marked with tags, improving identification and revealing nightingale routes.

The surveys also proved that bats take individual routes in a line from the main colony. Dr Stebbings has recorded regular journeys radiating 40 to 50 miles between summer and winter habitats from the nursery roosts. The repeated patterns indicate that bats are faithful to a particular colony, although members probably live in a couple of hundred roosts according to sex and season.

• Lindane-based timber treatments which are deadly to bats are still sold legally, although bats are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, and despite the availability of an alternative chemical. Research by bat experts and the Building Research Establishment has shown that permethrin, a synthetic pyrethroid, kills beetles as required but does not harm bats.

As a result Rentokil have modified their conventional woodworm killer, but they only use the new permethrin product if there is evidence of bats, and with a 10-year instead of a 30-year guarantee.

Tests on a house given a lindane treatment 30 years ago has shown that vapours would still be lethal to bats. Conservationists are continuing to test bats' reactions to other chemicals used to combat wood-boring beetles and timber-rotting fungi. The studies are crucial, since half-a-million homes are treated every year.

Bats prefer clean and fairly draught-free buildings. Forty-seven per cent of colonies are

found in houses less than 25 years old. "Barrett boxes" has become batman jargon. Contrary to popular belief bats do not harm buildings and dropping dry powder with only slight smell is excellent, though uneven, insulation. Since the Wildlife and Countryside Act was passed to protect bats, the Nature Conservancy Council has to be informed on any potential disturbance to roosts.

The council is encouraging the building of bat boxes, made of rough-sawn softwood with a slit in the base. Research has shown that successful use is increased when boxes are on the south sides of trees, high up, in areas rich with insects. Predators include squirrels, woodpeckers and owls - at least one is known to have prised off a bat-box lid.

## Blanket coverage

Temperature is important for bat comfort: 30°C appears to be the optimum temperature for greater horseshoe summer nursery roosts. An experiment in a roost near Bradford, Dorset, involves four electric blankets (sandwiches of fibreglass in metal mesh), which have been installed in the roof of an eighteenth-century house used by the greater horseshoe colony. The blankets are kept at different temperatures and bat choices are being recorded by infra-red television cameras.

Outside the breeding season, bats choose roosts according to need. Thin nests tend to hang up in low-temperature roosts so that they expend less energy. A bat's flying temperature is 42°C (higher than man's 37°C), but this falls 10 degrees for digestion after landing; then to the surrounding temperature. Research indicates the need for a large number of roosts for a single colony.

Bats' ultrasonic pulses - inaudible to humans - can be heard through bat detectors. A sophisticated second generation, the S700 developed by Queen Mary College, London, reproduces the exact patterns of bat signals.

The detector can give acoustic profiles on the spot, pinpointing bats even in pitch-darkness.

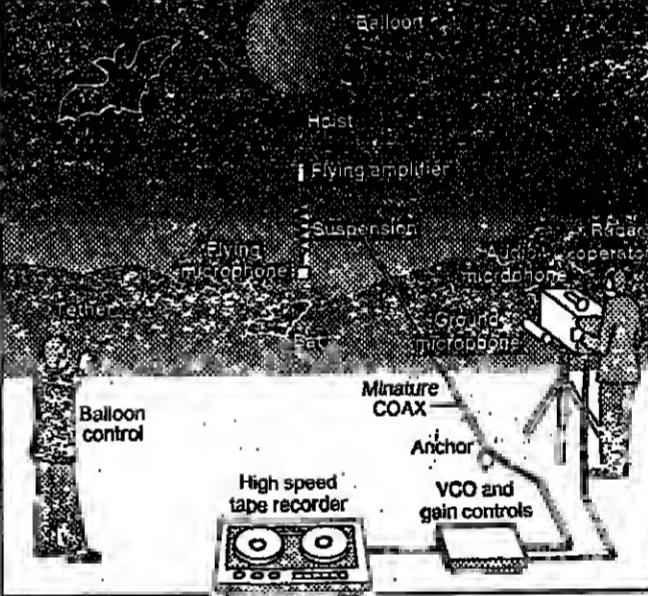
For the first time detectors can distinguish the unique differences between each species.

The bats (left) have been persuaded to take part in experiments by being offered a dummy target suspended with a microphone under a balloon, linked to the detector and recorder. This is giving exact measurements of speed (up to 25 miles an hour for these small bats), and precision, down to millimetres at a distance of several metres.

## Ann Hills

## Shrinking colonies

A national survey of about 200 bat colonies has found that average populations have dropped from 119 in 1978 to 65 last summer. The largest colonies are in Scotland (average 188 bats); the smallest in the Midlands (48). A further count will take place in late June and early July when the mothers forage for food at sunset, shortly before their infants take to flight three weeks



## Auntie and the Young Ones go a'revelling

*moreover . . .*  
**Miles Kington**

The fashion for slamming the BBC was in large part just that - a fashion. We love slamming something, but we move from target to target. Channel 4 was getting it in the neck last year, and is now agreed to be putting on very good stuff, even if it hasn't got its sum's right. Then TV-am fell flat on its face and got the rotten tomatoes, though it seems to be matching the BBC pretty well now. So it was time that the Beeb came in for its fair share of mud-slinging and it was, to the whole, got away quite lightly. You wait and hear the howls of derision that will greet early cable TV. Just you wait and hear.

Much of what Max said was true, as the middle classes were quick to agree, but there seemed to be a feeling that once Aubrey Singer had been sacrificed to the gods, things could go quiet again - why, I don't believe I've heard *Sixty Minutes* criticized for more than a week. And as the smoke of battle cleared, the damage on the battleground was much less than supposed.

The BBC may still find it hard to get programmes in the Top Ten, but when you look at most of the ITV programmes that pull in the crowds, you wonder if anyone seriously wants to be in the Top Ten. Furthermore, if a week in which the BBC got 47 per cent of the audience can be described as a very bad week for them, you wonder what they have to do to be called good. If the Tories got 47 per cent in a popularity poll, who would call it bad?

Right from the start of the first series I was quite convinced that this is the best, brightest, most inspired TV comedy since Monty Python. Also the funniest. They have latched on to the simple yet hard truth about comedy: that if you have a solid story line and a cast of clearly drawn characters, you can be as crass as you like. *The Goon Show* knew that. *Soap* knew that. Not many others do. So, although *The Young Ones* is ostensibly about four ill-matched students in one house, they can without strain introduce a hamster, talking Scots, the contents of the fridge bursting into song and a magnificent concert, this - The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse going mad with boredom and getting nothing from God in answer to their prayers but endless sets of Travel Scrabble. In an effort to emphasize how original the series is and how much better than anything else around, people keep telling us that it is wonderfully anarchic and without precedent. An-

archie is precisely what it isn't: the scripts by Elton, Mayall and Mayer are beautifully controlled and constructed. Without precedent? Nearly, yes, but there is one parallel from nearly 25 years ago which keeps nudging my memory: the radio version of *Hancock's Half-Hour*. That programme, like *The Young Ones*, put four or five egocentric monsters in the same house and let them get on with their fantasies, with the lamest of excuses for being there. None of the pseudo-sociological background that cripples most sitcom ("John is a single parent with a child who has recently moved in with his divorced father, next door to his mother . . ."), simply a huge delight in making outsize egos bump into each other, watching the sparks fly and entering a realm of invention which few comedies even suggest. Twenty-five years hence parents will be saying, "Ah, but you should have seen *The Young Ones* . . . on the BBC," they might add. So was Hancock come to think of it.

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- 10 Attar of roses (16)
- 11 Latin musical part (4)
- 12 Conference (18)
- 14 Specialist faculty (10)
- 17 Lombardy tree (6)
- 18 Last book leaf (3,3)
- 23 Dissolute man (4)
- 24 Spanish currency (4)
- 25 Young cow (6)
- 26 Industry (6)
- 28 Altitude (6)
- 29 Church vaults (6)
- 30 Down
- 1 Surpass (5)
- 2 Swager (7)
- 4 Deep charge (7)
- 7 Prescription (7)
- 13 Lavatory (3)
- 15 Setting (7)
- 16 Egg cells (3)
- 17 Greek war dance (7)
- 18 Treacherous act (7)
- 20 Song of praise (5)
- 21 Position (5)
- 23 Bent knee (5)

## SOLUTION TO NO 338

- ACROSS: 8 Primogeniture, 9 Nag, 10 Retrodden, 11 Renew, 13 Pitfall, 16 Suburbs, 19 Audit, 22 Whirlpool, 24 Ark, 25 Good Samaritan, 7 Kennel, 12 Emu, 14 To, and 15 Lei, 16 Sewage, 17 Briton, 18 Slummy, 20 Dearth, 21 Taking, 23 Rush

**CORRECTION**  
The poet Keith Douglas died in Normandy in June 1944, not near El Alamein as stated in Spectrum on the 2nd May.

## FRIDAY PAGE

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

## Snuff's the stuff

Can snuff damage your health? For the 250,000 casual and regular nasal takers in this country, who managed to snuff their way through 100,000 kilograms last year, the answer will probably be "no".

Some of the most popular brands are medicated - the tobacco is ground with menthol, camphor or eucalyptus - and are claimed to help clear stuffy heads and combat hayfever.

Nicotine from nasal snuff is absorbed into the bloodstream much more quickly than nicotine from chewing gum and similar levels are reached from a pinch of snuff as a drag on a cigarette. And, because the tobacco is not burnt, carcinogenic gases or tar are not produced. So, if snuff is substituted for cigarette smoking the risks of lung cancer and other diseases will drop.

But before you reach for the snuff box remember that every tobacco product carries some health dangers. The whole issue has recently been raised because an American company wants to import a type of "wet" snuff called Skoal Bandits. The snuff is packaged in a tea-bag and eased between the bottom lip and gum. What worries David Simpson, director of the anti-smoking organization Ash, is that the marketing strategy in America suggests that Skoal Bandits carry few health risks.

Yet a report in America in 1981 suggested that among a group of white women from North Carolina there was a significant increase in mouth and throat cancers which could be directly linked with "snuff-dipping" - the use of these bags. In addition other researchers have linked big breath, teeth and gum problems and a loss of sense of taste and smell with chronic use of smokeless tobacco.

Mr Simpson has made representations to the Department of Health and the Advertising Standards Authority against the import of Skoal Bandits on the grounds that, health considerations aside, they constitute an additional tobacco product being made available without consultation.

## Fit feet

**T**ake off your shoes and look at your feet. Are your big toes straight or do they veer off, crowning the other toes? Do you suffer from corns or bunions? If you have any of these problems the chances are they were caused by wearing ill-fitting shoes; if you do nothing now the problem could get worse and cripple you in old age.

Michael Grillage, a Birmingham GP, has recently written a booklet on the importance of foot care, and how it is under-rated.

Too often, Dr Grillage says, shoe shop assistants measure customers while they are sitting down. Feet spread considerably when carrying the full body weight and have to support a considerable force when you are walking or running, so have your feet measured while standing up.

He advises fashion-conscious women not to wear shoes with high heels and narrow toes for more than three or four hours.

"Springtime Step" can be obtained from Carnation, Cuxton-Gerrard & Co, Fountains Lane, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands, B69 3BB. Enclose a stamp.

## It's a sweat

Excessive perspiration can cause real misery. For most people... hot weather... or strenuous exercise are the only occasions when their sweat glands go into overdrive, for others, without any trigger, sweat trickles down to their elbows continuously.

Over-active sweat glands affect the hands, feet and armpits. Sufferers are otherwise completely healthy. According to Dr Andrew Pembroke, consultant dermatologist at King's College Hospital: "It is a genuine problem, quite common and most unpleasant and embarrassing."

The symptoms start in adolescence, reach a peak in the early to mid-twenties and gradually subside during the thirties. For these people the normal awkwardness of the late teens is compounded by smelly feet, rotting shoes and ruined shirts.

One of the best treatments, available for only a few years, is a solution of aluminium chloride hexahydrate in alcohol. The solution is applied to the underarms last thing at night, but it may make the skin sore because it is acidic. People who started the treatment on a nightly basis found that it was so successful they could gradually reduce the frequency to once weekly.

For the hands and feet tablets containing atropine can be quite useful. The drug slows the activity of the glands but, because it involves the whole body, there may be side effects. Stomach upsets, dry throats and mouth and blurred vision are the most common problems.

For intractable problems surgery may be recommended: skin in the armpit containing the largest concentration of sweat glands may be removed or, alternatively, the nerve supply to the armpits may be severed. Dr Pembroke emphasizes that these options are a last resort.

Finally a technique known as iontophoresis may work for sufferers from particularly sweaty hands and feet. A low-level electric current is passed into the skin which, magically, plugs the glands and cuts the sweat production.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Parents snatching their own children break no English law. Frances Gibb looks at a Bill about to go before the Lords that will make this a criminal offence.

Graham was four years old when his father abducted him from his mother. He and his father had been on holiday together. When the two weeks were up, they simply didn't return. His mother Jean Burt, by then divorced and separated from her husband for three years, remembers making routine checks of the hospitals and airines in case of accident. But she had a nagging suspicion of the truth. "I feared the worst within the first five minutes", she recalls.

It was just over a year before she met her son again, and then in the company of his father and present wife; and 20 months passed before she had him home with her. "The best way to describe the feeling is that it feels as if someone very close to you had died, but worse, because you know that somewhere that child is alive but you don't know what is happening to him."

Her experience of suddenly having her child seized from her care without warning, being faced with tracking down his whereabouts and going through the long, painful and difficult process of securing his return, is more and more common.

Child-stealing - abduction of a child by one parent against the other's will - is on the increase: a tragic spin-off of the climbing divorce rate, one in which the child becomes a pawn in a physical and psychological tug-of-war between divorced or separated spouses and is snatched from the custodial parent, often to be taken abroad, beyond the jurisdiction of this country.

It is a phenomenon that our laws are particularly ill-equipped to deal with. At present, there is no criminal offence of kidnapping one's own child. English law deals with breaches of court custody or wardship care orders as contempt, which carries statutory penalties, including imprisonment, which are rarely enforced. Criminal remedies against parents are not available.

There is a strong tide of opinion in favour of a change in the law, however. This week in the House of Lords, the Crown, in a test action, challenged a recent Court of Appeal ruling confirming that parents could not, in law, kidnap their own children. The Court of Appeal last November quashed convictions for kidnapping and contempt of court in the case of a father, Mr Ian Daily, who twice snatched his daughter from his former wife and took the child off to New Zealand. It was thought to be the first time in legal history that a father had been convicted of kidnapping his own child.

The judges held there was no such offence as kidnapping a child under 14 by a parent. Setting aside a two-year jail sentence, they said Parliament had never intended that a mother or father should be prosecuted for child-stealing. The case, they said, was a serious example of a deliberate flouting of a High Court order by a father. But although judges had wide jurisdiction to punish

for such action, the father should never have been convicted of kidnapping.

As the law lords consider their judgment, the Government is backing a private member's Bill which has now received its third reading in the Commons. This creates a new offence, carrying up to seven years imprisonment on conviction. A parent, guardian, custodian or father of an illegitimate child who takes or sends that child outside the country without the consent of the other parent or guardian, or of the court which made the custody or care order, will have committed the offence. Parents who snatch children in defiance of a court order and remain in this country will still be dealt with by contempt orders. But the Bill gives parents who abduct abroad, before or after a court custody order, within the criminal law for the first time.

## Child stealing is a tragic spin-off of the climbing divorce rate, in which the child is a pawn

Both the Lords' decision and the Bill's passage are being closely watched by victims of child-stealing and in particular by those members of Children Abroad, a self-help group that prompted by her own experience - Jean Burt helped to set up in Keighley, Yorkshire, to advise parents in similar plights.

No official statistics exist, but the group estimates that from the 100 cases they hear in about a year, there could be as many as 500 throughout the country. In France, they point out, the ministry of justice has a record of 1,000 cases a year and that is not thought to be comprehensive.

In America there is a rising incidence of "child snatching".

Mr Burt says: "An attempt to bring criminal proceedings in the Kuwait courts failed because although kidnapping a

child is a criminal act there, the offence originated in England and there needed to be a comparable offence in Kuwait jurisdiction for proceedings to succeed. In the end civil proceedings at a cost of £11,000, secured Graham's return.

They now know how to deal with the system that, for instance, enables a duty judge to be found 24 hours a day to make the child a ward of court which facilitates Home Office administrative procedures such as port stops. And consults encouraging them to use their powers to help in such cases, for example, doing welfare reports on the child in their country.

Children Abroad now has nearly 80 members and some 150 cases on their books where parents are still trying to retrieve a child or to prevent a "resnatch". One mother has faced this three times.

Members - two-thirds mothers - have varying experiences but common threads occur. Sheer vindictiveness can be one motive disputes over access: a thwarted desire for custody; a belief, common among mothers, in the right to care of the child; and blackmail, with a view to stopping divorce proceedings or improving financial settlements.

Mark Burt, Mrs Burt's second husband, and a co-founder of the group, says these blackmail cases are among the most distressing, with children forced to write pleading letters and often denied the

replies. Snatching often occurs without warning. When it is the father, the snatch is usually during a period of access. Physical violence is rare unless it is a second or third occasion when the other parent is on guard. When it is the mother, child-stealing often occurs when the husband is at work. One husband returned home to find his child and half the furniture gone, Mr Burt says.

It was the obstacles the Burts faced that made them want to share their experiences. Only

through endless questioning of friends, relatives and colleagues, did they finally discover young Graham had been taken to Kuwait. Months of "battering" bureaucracy followed, trying to get the police, Foreign Office and embassy officials to take action. "No one wants to know. They say it is a private dispute", Mr Burt says. An attempt to bring criminal proceedings in the Kuwait courts failed because although kidnapping a

child was a criminal act there, the offence originated in England and there needed to be a comparable offence in Kuwait jurisdiction for proceedings to succeed. In the end civil proceedings at a cost of £11,000, secured Graham's return.

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## Surrogate sanctions

From Dr Jones Appleyard, Kent and Canterbury Hospitals

Your article (Wednesday Page April 25) featuring a beautiful surrogate baby made compelling reading. It highlighted the immense gratification that baby Amanda gave to her "adoptive" parents' desire to have a child of their own. However your correspondent glossed over the more complex ethical, social and legal issues raised.

Fundamentally such "triangular" arrangements involve a change in the motive for creating children from a desire to have them for their own sake to a desire on the surrogate mother's part to have them because they can provide some other benefit. Even though it may be said to be an altruistic attempt to bring happiness to an infertile couple, the child is still being "used" by the surrogate. To sanction the use and treatment of human beings as a means of achieving other ends instead of as ends in themselves, is to accept an ethic with a tragic past and establish a precedent in this country with a dangerous future.

In the United States it has been found that few surrogates will volunteer their services for altruistic reasons alone and the ban on the payment of fees beyond medical expenses has in effect stopped the practice in some states. Surrogate arrangements exert pressures upon the normal family structure and society as there is an intrusion by the third adult into the marital community. The adverse long term psychological and social effects on the child are predictable, *inter alia*. From the asymmetry of the relationship the adopting parents have towards the child. As evidence of this accountants, it would seem that securing the welfare of children (and thus our future generations) should take precedence over sanctioning arrangements which may satisfy the desires of individuals or pairs of adults who are able to afford to buy a child for themselves.

I am glad to have read *The Hobbit* 1100,000 computerized copies sold in its boring old original form, glad also to have read C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*, for these too, we are told, are being sized up for their computer potential. One wonders what computerized classics will do to the reading habit? Increase the sales of the original? Or are straight books a commercial ones?

Teacher's defence

From G. C. Pason, The Wilderness School, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks

As a headmaster of 22 years' experience, I cannot allow Mr John Pearman's attack on teachers (Monday Page, May 7) to pass unchallenged. Teachers are poorly paid compared with their university colleagues, who have entered other professions, and it is essential that high quality staff are recruited. Why should teachers' families and dependents be made to suffer?

It has been my experience that the majority of teachers give devotedly of their time and energy to enable their pupils to have the best possible educational experience and make considerable financial sacrifices to travel to Saturday fixtures, evening parents' meetings and so on.

Teachers are not lightly stirred into action but on this occasion they have been too aggressively provoked by the minister.

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## Libraries lose a friend

## COMMENT

genuinely does mean to some

librarians - is that the libraries are now providing useful pamphlets on the Rent Act and the like. So far, so good; it is surely right that people should know they can drop into their library for this purpose. But the phrase, and the principle, are not infinitely extensible. And when I hear books - novels, biographies, history, philosophy, poetry - all lumped together under the heading "sources of information", and when I bear the good old concept of free access perverted to mean that no one should pay for anything in any form (except the poor writer, who pays with his time, energy and life) then I know that I am in the presence not just of people who are no friends of mine but, what is far worse, people who have no coherent view of their function.

Arguably it is a Good Thing for libraries to lend copies of hardback, specialist books which most library users could genuinely not afford. By the same token, it would seem to follow that it is not the librarians' function to provide lavish supplies of mass circulation paperbacks that are freely available down the road for the price of six cups of coffee, two

sumptuous ploys have been dreamed up - pop records, softwear, soft toys among the (vetted, guaranteed non-racist, non-sexist) children's literature.

Herbert Spencer, the nineteenth century political philosopher, predicted that one of the many undesirable results of state intervention in life would be free dissemination of pulp literature. Even that far-sighted cynic did not foresee that the pulp on offer might not be literature of any description.

Gillian Tindall

It was London that provided me with my first big opportunity when I made my debut there in 1970.

Since then, I have played with almost every British orchestra and I have come to regard Britain as the base for my career.

Extremely impressed by the high standard and dedication of British musicians, it solidifies me to hear of those who have fallen on hard times, through illness, accident or old age. They have given pleasure to many by their music making, and they deserve to be remembered.

R. M. E. J.

KYUNG-WHA CHUNG

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## And another union rift

The Oxford Union is involved in an acrimonious debate over the disclosure that Walter Perry, steward of the union's social facilities, has been given early retirement with a reported £10,000 payoff. The figure, leaked to the student newspaper *University*, caused much dispute, and was settled only after the Union stalled in baronial don Harvey McGregor of New College. Perry's departure follows disagreements over management and the hiring of staff, and leaves the Union's already shaky finances even more enfeebled. I am told the Union now hopes to raise £20,000 by auctioning some of its most valuable antiquarian books, part of the charitable trust set up to preserve the debating and library functions. No doubt a few well-chosen words will be said about that as well.

### CHOOSE-A-MUSE

The leisurely progress of James Fenton and Peter Levi towards the winning post of the Oxford poetry professorship — "No, no, after you, old chap" — may yet be baited. Bobbing poet and clericish addict Clifton Ewart has entered the race. He is being nominated by author Tim Heale, doubtless smelling in the Fenton-Levi carpe-up the sort of cosy conspiracy exposed in his *Newspaper* book: an old boy connexion. Ewart launches his campaign here with two new clerical words I commissioned yesterday:

I do believe / would be as good as Peter Levi / and I'm certainly bent on / our Fentonizing James Fenton / and the ride. / Like Muse / could choose / from the greater and the lesser) / would she actually want a poetry professor?

### Pill poppet

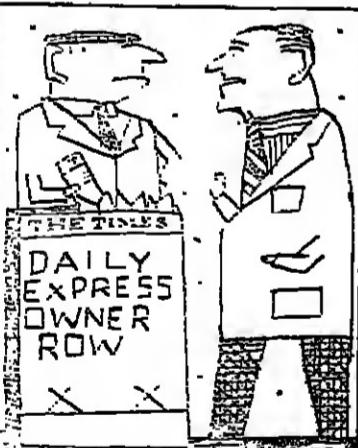
*BBC Breakfast Time* viewers were shocked yesterday by unlined Selina Scott's confession that she was taking pills "to slow down the aging process." Where on earth had she got such an idea? They might have guessed: Barbara Cartland filled her head with SOD (Super Oxide Dismutase) during an interview at her Hatfield mansion, mercifully never shown.

The GLC patron of the minority, ethnic, proletarian arts, has finally succumbed. It has commissioned a work for its open-air concert at the Crystal Palace Bowl on July 30 by composer Derek Bourgeois.

### Troops in

An unlikely tale comes from Belfast where I hear that a Sinn Fein councillor, Alex Maskey, has complained about the absence of British Army vehicles in Catholic West Belfast. This seeming about-face from a supporter of "Troops Out" is explained by the fact that because the army does not escort Post Office vans into the area, three offices have closed through lack of funds.

BARRY FANTONI



It must be serious. There's no bid yet from Maxwell'

### Coles to Jordan

My Whitchall mole tells me that John Coles, Mrs Thatcher's Foreign Office private secretary to Number Ten, is about to be named successor to Sir Alan Urwick. Britain's high-flying ambassador in Jordan, I understand that Sir Alan — who was recently knighted during the Queen's most dangerous royal tour there — has sought the Jordanian government's agreement to the move. There is unlikely to be any difficulty; King Hussein is a known admirer of Mrs Thatcher, and will probably be delighted to have her protégé in Amman. Sir Alan, I suspect, will be stalling the handover. He is tipped to move on to Cairo where I am told the incumbent ambassador, Sir Michael Wein, is refusing to budge until he retires next February. Also about to retire is a man in Baghdad, John Moberley, who seems destined to spend his years with Palestinian refugees. I am told the Government is lobbying to get him the job as Secretary-General of the UN Relief and Works Agency.

### In common

Ken Livingstone, flush with the success of the Thames barrier's queenly inauguration, has admitted a change of heart about the Royal Family. When reminded by biographer John Carvel at the ICA discussion yesterday about his earlier anti-royalist stand — including the comment that he couldn't see "what the public gets from Princess Anne" — Keo said he had made a crucial mistake. "I based my opinion of her on what I heard from the media."

PHS

# Death with dignity for the GLC

After sailing through its committee stage in the Commons this week (despite the Heath-Gilmour ripple effect) the bill to cancel the 1985 Greater London Council elections looks unstoppable. The growing certainty of demise will not, however, stop the County Hall jobs boom. During April the GLC placed advertisements for at least a score of well-paid jobs that can scarcely last longer than the next 12 months and the recruitment goes on.

It has sought to recruit special policy advisers (nuclear) and special policy researchers (arts and recreation), a research assistant for employment and welfare, a clerk to the women's committee, a "senior policy implementation officer," a head of road safety, transport planner, and fittingly, a senior recruitment officer (£12,444 — £14,076).

There is a budget provision for some 1,500 extra staff to be taken on this year, plus staff for the Greater London Enterprise Board and for the multitude of voluntary organizations supported by County Hall. And there is room for more. Under-spending was one of the Labour administration's problems last year; this year there will again be difficulties in exhausting the huge budget provided by London's ratepayers.

Is it a scandal? It certainly seems that way to the Tory borough leaders who are relishing less and less sorting out the mess of London

government. To them here is evidence of Labour's wish to pull down the pillars of County Hall as they leave behind a trail of expensive commitments, contracts to be paid off and an army of permanent staff entitled to redundancy terms.

Yet expensive though these new jobs are and will be, they were clearly promised by Labour's 1984-85 budget. Indeed, what is surprising is just how little disruption and terminal extravagance there is in the GLC, despite its impending demise.

Those new jobs, say Labour councillors, are needed because the GLC show is still on the road: there is a rosy belief that the Lords could still delay abolition. Myself, Harington, deputy leader of the council, says the abolition battle has given the GLC such "credibility" that nothing must be allowed to mar its role of a democratic authority responsibly administering transport and the other services.

Peter Seers of the 17,000-strong GLC Staff Association, says colleagues may be scanning other councils' vacancy lists, but there is no despair, even in such areas as architecture or planning.

Labour's official line is that its propaganda may work: only the passage into law of the so-called Paying Bill, cancelling next year's GLC election will convince them there are only months to go. Even then "responsibility" will rule until the signing and sealing of the

abolition statute itself — sometime next spring on current timetables.

Meanwhile, there is not much evidence of financial jiggery-pokery. The controversial Greater London Enterprise Board has been well funded for 1984-85; it has enough money to make a series of land and property purchases, because of its particular legal status (a company wholly owned by GLC councillors). Unravelling it would be difficult.

There are suggestions that grants to voluntary organizations should be bumped up to provide financial security for several years. In other words the lesbians and ethnic and community arts bodies might be given money to buy property or in other ways to save money away for use in that bleak post-GLC future.

Labour's frontbench councillors,

the committee chairmen especially, are well aware that they face a dilemma. Do they so organize their administration over the next few months that it is simple to continue once the GLC goes (and so benefit the service consumers), or do they try to make the lines of management impossible to unravel? The South Bank arts complex could be prepared for hiving off as a unit under its director, Lord Birkelet; the GLC's historic buildings administration is already prepared for its quangoed future as an independent entity: do they allow officers to proceed along these lines elsewhere?

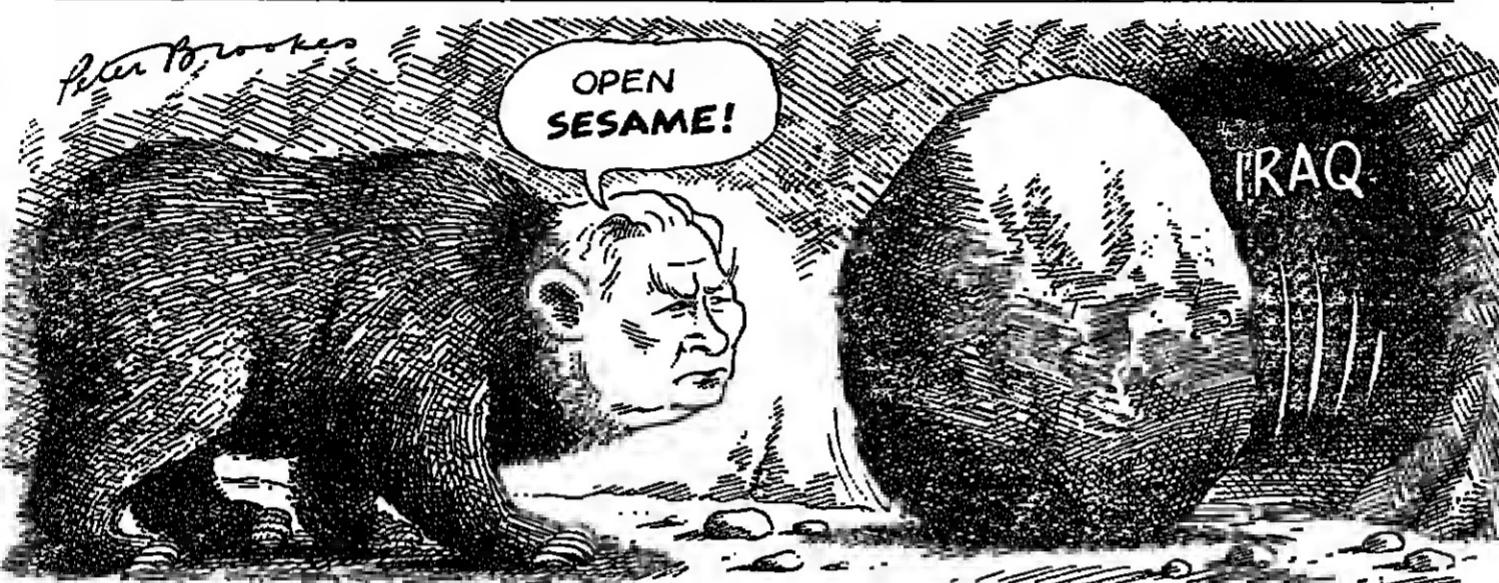
Labour's sense of responsibility has limits. Within months the GLC will begin putting together a budget for 1985-86 to be used by the group of borough councillors who will take over in 1985. That budget will be "rate-capped". The finance chairman, John McDonnell, could play an infinite variety of games with the figures, each of which could make life very tricky indeed for Westminster's Lady Porter, Peter Bowes of Croydon, or the other Tory leaders. They will be caught between government ministers and ratepayers expecting rate reductions, and Londoners demanding unchanged fire cover, blue plaques, mended potholes and functioning traffic lights.

Alan Greenross, leader or the Tory group at the GLC, sees the months from February to May next year as the most difficult. By February the Government should have pushed the abolition bill through. What then would Labour have to lose?

The answer is that a few extreme-left Labour councillors might want disruption and administrative mayhem. But they do not include Ken Livingstone. Whatever else the Labour leader is (a new biography gives him the visage of a saint), he is an ambitious politician who has always had an eye on the next rung. His future lies in national politics. He is unlikely to wish to see Labour adopt a nihilist line. Next spring there will be pyrotechnics at County Hall, but no arson.

David Walker

Edward Mortimer urges a more realistic approach to the Saddam regime



## Why Moscow must be denied an open door to Iraq

cut by half. The arms purchases, too, involved "easy and satisfactory" credit arrangements though they were not, he emphasized, outright grants.

Moscow is thus making a sizable investment in the future of Iraq's Baathist regime, and thereby is acquiring a major role in several key sectors of Iraq's economy. The political corollary is that relations are back on the cordial basis which characterized them before 1974.

What does all this mean for the West? Not, or not yet, that Iraq is turning its back on us. France, of course, remains a trusted and valued supporter. More generally, western firms are seen as best able to supply many of Iraq's needs, on strictly commercial terms. But Iraq tends to seek western countries other than France as hostile, because Iran is fighting with weapons mainly of western origin, and because its war effort is financed mainly by oil sales to the West, with Japan the worst culprit. And even if the West were genuinely neutral, its performance would still compare unfavourably with Moscow's from the Iraqi point of view.

Does it matter? Not, perhaps, if you think Iraq is going to lose the war anyway. But that looks rather less plausible than it did a year ago. Since then, it is true, Iran has been able to occupy small pockets of Iraqi territory: the most significant being the Majnoon islands in the marshes north-east of Basra, captured in a surprise attack in February. Iraq's use of chemical weapons in this battle — still stoutly denied by Mr Aziz for the record, but conceded by other officials in private — was widely interpreted as a sign of desperation. But it seems to have been done on a small scale, and confined to the marsh area where

Iraq could not deploy tanks. It may have been undertaken as an experiment, and to prove Iraq's determination to resist the Iranian "human waves" by whatever methods necessary, however disastrous.

But the front as a whole has held steady now for nearly two years. Iraq's superiority in equipment is clearer than ever, and Soviet support effectively guarantees that it will continue. Iraqi soldiers have proved they are willing to fight and die in defence of Iraqi soil. The Shia revolt on which Khomeini once counted has not occurred. The Baath regime has given proof not only of its ruthlessness (if that were ever in doubt) but also of its non-sectarian character and — by Middle Eastern standards anyway — of its incorruptibility. There are no stories of Baath leaders having Swiss bank accounts or luxury villas abroad. Some officials caught taking bribes have been executed.

There is no question. Mr Aziz was assured me of the rapprochement with Moscow leading to a reconciliation with the Iraqi communists, who "bear the responsibility of their short-sightedness and their negative attitude towards the revolution and the leadership". Only among the short-sightedness and their negative attitude towards the revolution and the leadership". Only among the Kurds of the north does the regime feel the need to extend its popular base, and it has high hopes of doing so through an agreement with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani.

The end of the war with Iran is not in sight, but the assumption that Iraq must crack sooner or later is not self-evident. Austerity has replaced ostentatious public works. Arab neighbours give financial help with growing impatience, but have little choice other than to continue. But Iraq's own oil exports should begin to pick up this summer with an

increase in the capacity of the Turkish pipeline from 850,000 to 980,000 barrels a day. Even more important is the planned link to the pipeline which crosses Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea. This should enable Iraq to start exporting another 1,500,000 barrels a day some time next year, or at the latest in 1986. Another million barrels a day could flow through the proposed new pipeline to Aqaba in Jordan, if the Americans agree to finance it.

If Iraq does survive the war it will emerge transformed: leaner, tougher, the only Arab nation to have held its own in battle for longer than five weeks. It will not be quite as nasty as Khomeini's Iran, but it will be hardly less formidable, and it is likely to feel it owes nothing to the West.

Yet there are people in Iraq who hope that the regime will then feel confident enough to allow a greater degree of internal freedom. Last week's symposium on "The Gulf" organized jointly by the University of Basra and London's Arab Research Centre, at which Iraqi academics were encouraged to debate publicly with prominent Nasserist intellectuals from Egypt and with recently retired senior officials of the US State Department, even answering back to Mr Aziz himself who spoke at four of the sessions, was regarded by many as an unprecedented and potentially promising event — as was the friendly treatment given to Dr Hana Bajatu, a Palestinian expert on Iraqi politics now working in the US and hitherto regarded by the regime as a public enemy.

It is hard to see Iraq ever becoming a liberal democracy, but one can perhaps imagine it evolving into a more enlightened despotism, especially if the West gives it slightly less grudging support now as it struggles to hold back the tide of fanaticism. Iraq may have been the aggressor in 1980 — the point is arguable. The provocation was extreme — but unquestionably it is now only Iran that wants to continue the war. Iraq may be a very imperfect representative of modern civilization, but what is at issue now between it and Iran is whether modern civilization is something to which one should even aspire.

Chinese, particularly because its reliability can be checked soon, made its urban councillor Li Chikyuet two weeks ago in Peking. He was assured that when the National People's Congress drafts China's new Fundamental Law or mini-constitution within three years, Hongkong residents, perhaps from the Legislative or Executive Councils, and even expert expatriates, will participate.

But guarantees, no matter how watertight, are not enough for the seven Hongkong delegates, or for the millions whose hopes and demands they represent. What they want is an elected representative government, already in place at some local levels.

If this comes to pass — and China claims that it wants to — Peking will be in a dilemma. It has already stated that whoever is elected as mayor or governor must secure China's approval, even though he will be a resident of Hongkong. But if Peking turns down a duly elected candidate it will be a fatal first move. On the other hand, can a regime which warns Tibetan yak-herders not to read *Sartre* possibly keep its hands off 5.3m volatile, entrepreneurial ex-colonials?

Jonathan Mirsky

David Watt

## Can Prior finesse the Forum?

There are two ways of looking at the New Ireland Forum's report. If you read it like an Ulsterman you see all the old "green" codology tumbling from the page. The nationalists' arrogance, the awful sanctimoniousness, the historical fantasizing are all there, as usual, and in good measure.

Moreover it is ultimately a thoroughly self-serving document, whose recommendations are intended to promote the unification of the Irish island under conditions which, in the long run and in spite of all the proposed safeguards, would place the predominant influence where Republicans believe it rightly belongs — namely with the majority of the whole.

If you read the report as a citizen of the Irish Republic, you see it in a very different light. You compare it with past declarations on this subject from the political parties of the republic and marvel at how far they have agreed (pace Mr Charles Haughey) to modify the old shibboleths. The public admission that unification can come about only by negotiated consent and that Irish nationalism has in the past underestimated the full dimension of the Unionist identity and ethos" is a giant step forward.

The promise that a new Ireland would need a new constitution based on religious and cultural diversity implies, although it does not explicitly state, that the specifically "Catholic" clauses of the present constitution of the republic, including the recently approved anti-abortion amendment, would be thrown out (presumably over the furious opposition of the church hierarchy).

Both these readings are legitimate and true in their way. Unionists are entitled to be sceptical about the report because, when all the wrapping is taken off, it still enshrines an aspiration that most of them instinctively reject.

But the fact remains that also contains sentiments and proposals that even five years ago would not have had the faintest chance of securing official consensus in Dublin (which would transgress the "consent" clause of the 1973 Northern Ireland Constitution Act) and an arbitrary but, in Dr Fitzgerald's view, entirely legal decision of the British government that Dublin should have a "say" in running the province.

The "must" element is, in effect, a claim that unafforded direct rule from Westminster is now more dangerous than the alternatives. The gains of Sinn Fein in the North and the decline of the moderate-Republican SDLP portend, it is said, a complete breakdown of Catholic consent unless something is done to give the Catholic minority an outlet for their aspirations.

The signs are that Mr Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and even the Prime Minister accept at least a major part of the "must" case, especially now that the Forum report has heightened Catholic expectations. Some gesture has to be made. The coercion of the Protestants is quite another matter. Leaving aside Conservative Party calculations and the blandishments of Mr Enoch Powell (whose recent discovery and proclamation of Mrs Thatcher's unexampled wisdom and even genius, is, no doubt, significant), the notion that the British government could risk a serious alienation of the Protestant majority, with all that might entail in terms of increased tension and violence, is simply not possible.

In these circumstances the only conceivable finesse open to the Cabinet is some variant of the Fitzgerald formula — a limited strengthening of London-Dublin cooperation on Ulster (perhaps with some new parliamentary dimension), which can just about be sold to the Falls Road as a bit of "joint authority" but which can be presented in East Belfast as leaving aside Conservative Party calculations and the blandishments of Mr Enoch Powell (whose recent discovery and proclamation of Mrs Thatcher's unexampled wisdom and even genius, is, no doubt, significant), the notion that the British government could risk a serious alienation of the Protestant majority, with all that might entail in terms of increased tension and violence, is simply not possible.

This completely rules out, from their point of view, at least two of

Philip Howard

## Cathedrals with aspirations

I am worried about Gloucester Cathedral. No doubt the old heap can stand up to heavier burdens for nine centuries. The worry is whether it should be included in the premier division of the top 10 British cathedrals.

Ggrading cathedrals is more fun than *Desert Island Discs*. For one thing, the music is better. For another thing, you do not have to put up with Roy Plomley asking fulsome questions in that plummy voice.

Of course this High Victorian passion for making lists is subjective and silly. Such aesthetic judgments depend on a great many variables, from the weather and the company to which you visit the cathedral, to whether they are singing *Matthew Passion* or performing an *Alternative Service*. With your next-door neighbour grabbing you and giving you a greeting of peace. (As it happens, they were both doing both when I last visited Gloucester). Cathedral-collecting is not objective; but it is fun.

For the purpose of the game, I think we have to include abbeys. It is tempting not to, for the relief of being able to leave out Westminster. But not ruined abbeys; for if you include them, a sense of sublime of Tintern is a strong contender for the first division; and Fountains and St Andrews are dark and ruinous houses.

One man's miserere is another man's postern. But I take it that there can be no argument about the first five of the top 10. Lincoln and Durham, of course; York and Canterbury; Exeter and Salisbury; St Paul's — even though the great cathedral dome is fenced in by modern matchboxes, it is still the pride and joy of London; and I do not see how you can exclude Westminster Abbey, dammit.

Nevertheless, I am sorry to have to tell you that Hereford takes the tenth place in the first division. I could explain why. But it would be more persuasive for you to go and have another look for yourself, preferably as the bright sun sets, and paints the queen of the West, which marches every soft shade of pink and red.

Jerry, is this

despite its promises, Peking will intervene in Hongkong's affairs after the British depart.

One of the delegates represents Meeting Point, an action group composed of young businessmen and professionals. Its chairman, Lao Nei-kuang, told me last week in Hongkong, "If I were in China, they would have crushed us already. But with things as they are — our prosperity, their need to frighen Taiwan — we have a chance to get real guarantees and form a government so that we can stand up to it.

Most of Hongkong's inhabitants are refugees, or the children of refugees, from 30 years of Maoist depravation of human and civil rights. Nothing unsettles such men more than article 35 of the new Chinese constitution which stipulates freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, and demonstration. None of these freedoms exists, except where it suits the Party.

It



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

**BIG SPENDER**

Mr Martin Feldstein, the departing chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, has done his bit to change the Washington climate of opinion against America's large federal deficit. Only Mr Donald Regan, the President's Treasury Secretary, continues to insist that the budget deficit is the United States' gift to the world economy - and nothing to do with rising American interest rates. President Reagan himself, it seems, has come to see the budget deficit as something of an electoral liability.

This conversion is welcome; but as the week's events have shown, dangerously late. Although Mr Reagan has requested, and Congress may even deliver, a down-payment on his budget-cutting plans before the presidential election, the present reality is that the federal government still pumping huge sums into a fast-expanding economy. The most recent rise in interest rates is the Federal Reserve Board's response to faster-than-expected economic expansion, which makes the budget deficit all the more inflammatory. Those of the President's men who criticize the Fed's chairman, Mr Paul Volcker, for applying the financial brakes are like a bunch of pyromaniacs who complain that the fire brigade has ruined their carpets.

America's trading partners do not, by and large, criticise the Fed: they lay the blame for rising interest rates squarely at the door of the White House. Their first complaint is that European interest rates have to follow suit, a consequence about which the Germans are particularly bitter. They believe that a rise in interest rates now will damage economic recovery in general and Germany's progress towards structural reinvestment in particular.

To this criticism the Americans have two defences. First,

that the Europeans do not need to follow suit, and should turn all their bravado talk about "decoupling" interest rates into action. When the Europeans retort that they can stand only so much of an exchange-rate decline against the dollar, the Americans deploy their second defence: that dollar strength merely reflects economic vitality. It is the golden investment opportunities in the vibrant American economy, say the President's men, that attract capital inflows and push up the dollar - not the crude lure of high American interest rates.

Admittedly, the American economy is working, adjusting and investing more productively than Europe. The dollar is strengthened by the outflow from the United States, which has virtually given up investing in arthritic European economies.

But much of the inflow into the United States takes the form of short-term financial deposits, and interest rates have had to rise way above European levels to suck in enough of them to plug the hole in the federal government's finances.

This quarrel between Europe and America has been going on so long that it had virtually fallen off the end of the agenda for next month's London economic summit. The hope had been that general recovery - world output has been accelerating for two years - would induce optimism, unanimity and concentration on longer-term issues, such as trade liberalisation and "structural" adjustment to technological change. The rise in interest rates has forced on to the agenda an issue several governments had sought to avoid: the nagging problem of third-world debt.

America's summit colleagues in Europe and Japan are united in their concern about the impact of higher interest rates on

developing countries, or rather on their ability to buy western goods and repay western debt. Too much of this debt is denominated in dollars, at variable interest rates, so that each one percentage point rise adds \$3.5 billion to developing countries' interest burden. In the last resort, this problem forces its own solution: already, the banks are having to rearrange their loans in order to reduce debt payments by as much as \$40 billion this year, and much of the extra interest burden will probably go the same rescheduled way.

But the strain of this on western banks - particularly on American banks - is becoming acute. Perhaps it would be no bad thing if one of the many restructuring negotiations finally collapsed under the strain, providing banks and borrowers with real experience as to whether sovereign default is always worse than cumulative rescheduling. But rising interest rates would be the worst precipitating cause; they penalise those who are trying to put their house in order quite as much as the improvidence and handicap the return to world financial stability.

Many technical schemes designed to lessen the impact of high interest rates are being drawn up for the summiteers. None of these palliatives compares with a cure of the fundamental American problem. Yet even with the President on board, the cause of budgetary reform proceeds agonisingly slowly. He is now paying the price of past complacency: a credit crunch and a missed opportunity to cut his deficit at the easiest moment, which is when economic growth is strongest. All he can do now is strengthen the political conviction that his cuts package is only the first of many. Changing tack in election year may be difficult, but vacillation has its proven disadvantages.

**Fair play for all in Olympics**

From Mr Richard J. Kelly

Sir, The Soviet boycott certainly need not bring about the demise of the Olympic movement, but it does give an opportunity for a reappraisal of the organization of the games.

The two major faults of the games at present are, first, that they are so large and unwieldy as to make it very difficult for any city to provide adequate facilities; secondly, that they are susceptible to political pressures of the kind which we are now witnessing. May I make some suggestions?

The Olympic Games should be a contest between individuals. If all team sports were dropped from the programme this would have the effect of lessening the element of nationalism which has developed over the years.

As competitors would be taking part as individuals there would be no national teams and no parade of nations at the opening ceremony.

There would be no boycott of individual competitors because of the political attitudes of their homelands, over which they have no control and with which they may violently disagree.

Dropping team sports from the programme would go some way towards reducing the size of the games. Another desirable step would be to retain only those events in which performance is measurable in terms of time, distance, height, weight, hits on target.

It also explains why individuals find it difficult to train to the face of change. Retraining demands higher general levels of education because it imparts basic conceptual and learning capabilities.

Britain also has less full-time enrolments in higher education than her major industrial competitors. Annual entry to higher education as a percentage of the relevant age group in 1975 was 22 per cent compared to 28 per cent in France, over 30 per cent in Italy and 40 per cent in Japan. The number of trainees in manufacturing is now barely half the level of the mid-sixties.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Industry finds trainees wanting**

From Sir Kenneth Corfield

Sir, The more Britain moves towards a knowledge-based society the more education becomes the key to future wealth creation. The world belongs to those who understand this and act upon it.

There are over three million registered unemployed in Britain today. Perhaps as many as half of the total unemployed are under 25. Paradoxically - and tragically - many British companies are constrained in their growth by skill shortages. These are especially severe in the electronics industry and in other sectors requiring electronics and related skills.

We need electronics engineers, test technicians, systems analysts, technical authors, design, development and sales engineers, applications engineers. We also need mechanical engineers to design the tools of the manufacturing plant.

Britain spends less per head on education and allocates a significantly lower percentage of total spending to vocational education than most of her major international competitors. There is thus a correspondingly lower proportion of skilled people entering the work population.

It also explains why individuals find it difficult to train to the face of change. Retraining demands higher general levels of education because it imparts basic conceptual and learning capabilities.

No sport should be contaminated which relies on assessment by judges of "technique" or "artistic impression". Such sports would continue, of course, to organize their own world championships, but they should have no place in the Olympics.

I

believe that these changes would make for a viable and independent Olympic games.

Yours faithfully,

R. J. KELLY,

Brockles House,

Morningside,

Harrow, Essex.

**African aims from the armed forces**

From Dr Alec Dickson

Sir, Armed forces in Africa are unlikely to be disbanded in the next decade or be reduced to a combat strength of some 5,000, as Charles Meynell urges (feature, May 1). But they could, here and now, make a formidable contribution to problems which seem insoluble by any other agency.

The youngsters, unemployed and virtually homeless, who cluster around filling stations with outstretched begging bowls - how can they be helped? Not by arms, but by the army. Illiterate for the greater part, they will never be accepted in any vocational centre. Yet the motor transport section of any military unit could quickly impart to them the practical skills to set themselves up in business as roadside menders of cycles and any Signals Corps unit or the equivalent of our REME could teach them to repair radios, sewing machines or air conditioners.

There is no need in peacetime for Medical Corps units to run static military hospitals; sick soldiers can be cared for in civilian wards. With their ambulances they could respond to the horrendous traffic accidents that occur so frequently in Africa - and gain experience in treating wounds as grave as those incurred amongst battle casualties.

With their facilities for refrigeration they could deliver vaccines to village clinics, helping immunization programmes and campaigns against tetanus, diphtheria, polio, smallpox, TB and measles. They could provide the logistic back-up for drives against bilharzia, malaria, river blindness, sleeping sickness and yaws.

Such a role would keep them on their toes. Hospital work can easily become routinised, whilst disaster relief and field operations call for quick responses. There is a functional as well as a linguistic connection between mobility and mobilisation.

In the Sahel and other drought-stricken areas only a massive deployment of an army's whole Corps of Engineers - aided perhaps by Education Corps personnel to still peasants' apprehensions and secure their cooperation - can cope with the well-boring and irrigation tasks which are quite beyond the capacity of a provincial agricultural department. Even the attachment of just a couple of sappers to a community self-help scheme could result in culverts, water tanks and small bridges being tackled by villagers. By becoming soldiers without enemies on the front home, their capacity to deal with external aggression is strengthened, not weakened.

Many senior officers from foreign defence forces attend Staff College courses in this country. Do we involve them in such exercises (in which British forces have a proud record) or just make a passing reference to them in a single lecture? Do our defence attaches ever hit that apart from the provision of technical hardware, we have experience in military aid to the civil community?

ALEC DICKSON  
19 Blenheim Road, W4.  
May 4.

**Liverpool heritage**

From the Chief Executive of the English Tourist Board  
Sir, On visiting the International Garden Festival at Liverpool one is impressed and excited by the newly created three-dimensional landscape with structures. This is a unique collection of the best work of our leading landscape designers and contractors. We have a new bit of heritage.

This part of the site should be made a conservation area at once. In this way we can retain for the stimulation and enjoyment of future generations examples of current landscape design at least as valuable as the groupings of nineteenth-century architecture we protect.

As with architecture, we cannot protect landscape without making arrangements for its future maintenance and use. This site cannot remain as a garden festival, but it could be the setting for other human activities comparable with its character.

How nice it is to feel that as a nation we can still create and look after additions to our heritage of the highest quality.

ANDREW THORBURN,  
Chief Executive,  
English Tourist Board,  
4 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.  
May 4.

**Slanging the Japanese**

From Canon A. J. Bennett  
Sir, The IBA is wrong to censure the comedian who referred to the Japanese as Nips (report, May 5). In the Singapore prison camp where I spent 3½ years our captors told us we must always refer to them as Nipponeese, never as Japanese. The Anglican Church in Japan has always been the Nippon Sei Ko Kai. Yours faithfully,

A. J. BENNETT  
4 Kyson Cottages  
Hengrove,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
May 5.

**Landscaping and BR**

From Dr J. C. Moore-Gillon  
Sir, Miss Rosemary Bashford (May 8) observes that "many stopping trains travel slowly enough for an observant onlooker to watch nature at work". She will be pleased to know that British Rail also regularly offers this valuable recreational and educational opportunity on longer City services.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MOORE-GILLON,  
47 Elmwood Road, SE14.  
May 8.

**SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

By most accounts President Reagan's televised address on the subject of Central America was a considerable political triumph. It was skilfully presented, dramatic in detail and forceful in the simple message it conveyed about the dangers to American security posed by Soviet, Cuban and Nicaraguan subversion in Central America. On the political level it seems likely to have achieved a more solid bi-partisan approach to Central American issues than the President might have expected in election year, certainly to judge from the tenuous bi-partisanship evident when the Kissinger recommendations were published earlier this year. Beyond creating an atmosphere of bi-partisanship, however, it also appears from Speaker O'Neill's initial response to the broadcast that the President will now secure some Congressional movement in support of those recommendations. There will thus be further aid for Salvador, though not for the Nicaraguan groups who are fighting the revolutionary government in Managua. Support for them will not have been made any easier by yesterday's preliminary decision of the International Court at the Hague which called on the United States to cease its assistance for military activity against the Sandinista government.

In electoral terms the

President's advisers will have cause to be happy with such a bipartisan result. They have been troubled by the evidence that the Central American issue causes concern among voters. That is partly because voters do not understand what the issue is about and partly because they fear that, whatever the issue is, it could lead to an unwelcome entanglement of American forces.

The President did not mince his words about the issue. He portrayed it as one in which Soviet, then Cuban and now Nicaraguan efforts are directed to subverting Central America and undermining the security of the United States. Why should the presence of communist revolutionary regimes in Cuba and Nicaragua necessarily do that? It is because they are quite open about their intention to export their revolution.

However, beyond that potential interference with supplies (which poses the same threat to Europe since much of Nato's replenishment in a crisis would travel the same route) there is another spectre, briefly but significantly mentioned by the President. He referred to the fact that subversion in Salvador had caused 400,000 refugees. There are another 800,000 refugees all over Central America.

"Concerns about the prospect

**IT WAS LATE SIXTY-EIGHT . . .**

At first it sounds like a change: "Danny the Red becomes a Green". In fact it is not a long journey across the political spectrum. Herr Daniel Cohn-Bendit who has now joined the Green Party in West Germany, was a prominent figure in the student movement of 1968, but in spite of his nickname he was never a communist or Marxist in any orthodox sense. He was an anarchist, a non-believer in institutions, a radical by temperament more than logic, as disdainful of the ossified bureaucracies of the Soviet block as he was of the allegedly oppressive structures of Western capitalism.

A few of his contemporaries moved on into terrorism but most merged into conventional life, acquiring jobs, families and orthodox views. He, however, remained faithful to the fringe and this now enables him, at the advanced age of 38, to step across easily from the protests of the past to those of the present, once again making headlines, though this time smaller.

How big is his step? Are the Greens the natural heirs of the students of 1968? Although their concerns are different there are many strands that link them. The student revolts which spread around the world in 1968 had specific roots in each country but they had in common a restless

existing structures. They are also somewhat more eclectic and tolerant, ostensibly less concerned with general doctrines than with action on issues.

This is both their strength and their weakness. They have gathered support from many different parts of the political spectrum, from the far left, the centre and from the old traditions of German conservatism, all of them more or less united against acid rain, nuclear weapons and President Reagan. Yet because they distrust organization they have not been good at organizing. Because they distrust power they have cut down their leaders. Because they distrust politics they have handicapped their elected representatives. And because they have gathered so many disparate elements in their broad embrace they have had to contain a lot of disagreement.

They are true heirs of the radical tradition in all this, and especially in their distrust of conventional politics. To the extent that the Greens are less violent, destructive and dogmatic than the students of 1968 they are a great improvement. They provide some valuable yeast in the system. But it is still reassuring that the voters feel their contribution belongs on the fringe rather than at the centre.

Today's Greens in West Germany have more specific concerns, primarily nuclear war and ecology. Most of them are against violence, whereas many of the students of 1968 were fascinated by attempts to justify it intellectually, and some by violence itself. The Greens are mostly not as revolutionary as their forebears. They think more in terms of alternative, parallel ways of life, detached from

existing structures. They are also somewhat more eclectic and tolerant, ostensibly less concerned with general doctrines than with action on issues.

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**Correcting the record**

From Mr Peter Grafton

Sir, At the not inconsiderable risk of infuriating GWR enthusiasts I must draw your attention to two inaccuracies in the article on Swindon works (May 1).

Reference is made to the "record" created by 3440 City of Truro and your reporter perpetuates the myth that this was the first locomotive to exceed 100 mph in this country. This is manifestly untrue as there is only one way Sir, have named the "Macrory gap", which I find flattering but embarrassing, because many people have jumped to the conclusion that it was Macrory who created that gap.

You did your best to correct that impression in your recent leader (April 28) in which you summed up the present position succinctly and accurately.

My thanks to the co-operation last week was, as it has long been the urgent need to close the Macrory gap by restoring the major local government services in Ulster to local democratic control. This was also the theme of the Ulster Unionist Assembly Party's recent discussion paper, *The Way Forward*. Although we dismissed this paper, rather contemptuously as "the Unionists' pen-powery", I do submit that it is at the local government level that we can best make a start to secure co-operation between the majority and the minority.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER GRAFTON,  
1 Whitstone Road, Paignton,  
Devon.

**'Isis' then and now**

From Mr Peter Gillman

Sir, Your informant, Edward Mortimer, is sadly at fault in his memories reported in *The Times* Diary on April 25 of the *Isis National* launched when Robert Maxwell became owner in 1963.

I was the first editor, not Geoffrey James and the scheme had considered success. We increased the print run from 1,000 to 5,000 and several issues sold out completely, including one devoted to Joseph Losey's film *The Servant*, which became a collector's item.

The scheme may have flopped after my departure, but during my editorship Maxwell promoted it with much verve. In view of his possible future as a national newspaper proprietor, it is also worth pointing out that Maxwell guaranteed *Isis* complete editorial independence.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER GILLMAN,  
21 Wimister Road, SE25.

May 1.

**Closing an Irish gap**



W. THACKER  
Oriental Studies  
Durham

THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# First mayday calls reach the equity market

Are interest rates likely to go higher? As I indicated here yesterday, it is hard to see why they should not. Can an already high equity market hold its ground, let alone capture more in the face of rising fixed-interest yields? It would be prudent to prepare for a fall in the market, perhaps by as much as 150 points in the FT 30 share index.

What effect would tacky gilt-edged prices and softening ordinary share prices have on the Government's funding and privatization programmes? They would make the former more difficult and throw a long shadow over the British Telecom issue. Even in the most enthusiastic market, because of its size and novel quality, Telecom would be a formidable trial for sponsoring underwriters and investors alike.

Finally, will these chilly winds from the financial market blow the economic recovery and Mrs Thatcher's strategy off course? It is too soon to say, save to note that a weak pound and the rising cost of credit have an unwanted bearing on the future rate of inflation. Reflecting such thoughts, index-linked gilt-edged stocks are back in vogue, moving up three-eights yesterday.

The gilt-edged market as a whole yesterday recovered some of its poise, while equities, aware of the imminent close of the current Stock Exchange account, looked both weary and wary. The Bank of England raised its dealing rates (in band four) by half a point to 8%, but this is still around a point below three and six months' interbank rates. The new tap stock, 9½% Treasury Convertible, at 48% is stranded 1½% below its issue price. If the Government Broker is to sell stock before the end of the banking month on Wednesday, then he will presumably be a runner for next year's Budget.

Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary, finally scotched the immediate rumour in the Commons yesterday. It would have been preposterous for the Treasury and the Inland Revenue to have hurried forward such a drastic and far-reaching proposal when Mr Norman Fowler at the Department of Health and Social Security is in the middle of weighing all the evidence given to his broad pensions inquiry. But as MPs and insurance men were pointing out yesterday, this does not mean the end of the matter. A change is a runner for next year's Budget.

The US bond market is fractured by even greater uncertainty. Wednesday's ten-year auction went badly and the result of the 30-year auction is awaited with some trepidation. Both British and US Governments currently face the same problem: raising money. If yesterday's rumours about the deep water into which one of the US banks has fallen (or rather, fallen further) are true, then the storm cones would turn into mayday signals.

Meanwhile Dr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers, was reiterating his forecast that interest rates are unlikely to fall this year, and will probably rise again next year. Speaking in London to an investment seminar for fund managers he repeated his argument that the only discipline in financial markets at the moment is interest rates. Unless, therefore, the United States government acted to cut its budget deficit, interest rates would have to rise further.

Dr Kaufman's presence in London was part of Salomon's pitch to sell its fixed rate services to managers of multi-currency funds. The firm makes no bones about its ambition to become the world's biggest force in research and trading in fixed interest stocks. To that end it has embarked upon an elaborate research

### The Times 1984 Budget briefing

The briefing will take place at the Dorchester Hotel on May 22, with myself as chairman. The principal speaker is Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, who will explain the strategic thinking behind the Chancellor's radical tax reforms. Information may be obtained and bookings made by telephoning 01-405 3501 (24 hours).

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Shell raises stake in US offshoot

Royal Dutch-Shell's \$5.5 billion (nearly £4 billion) bid for the 30.5 per cent of its American arm it does not already own has been accepted by shareholders representing more than 64 million shares. The bid, which has run into fierce opposition from some shareholders of Shell Oil Co has been extended to May 23. Royal Dutch, which was forced to increase its offer from \$55 a share to \$58, says it will not buy any shares at above \$58 for 18 months.

DEBENHAMS is set to show that the department store business can survive in the 21st century but much more as a financial services conglomerate on the lines of Sears Roebuck in the US. Profits last year were up from £19.6m to £22.7m, with a big boost from the Welbeck Finance credit business. The company is now gearing up to use Welbeck's strength to start a new range of financial and property services. It hopes to sign the deal with Harris Queensway within two months.

Tempus, page 20

#### Seagram buys 155 off-licences

By Derek Pain

Seagram Co., the world's biggest drinks group, is emerging as a powerful force in Britain's highly competitive off-licence trade. Yesterday it announced that it was paying £7.5m to Scottish & Newcastle Breweries for its 155 Gough Brothers shops which are mainly in London and the Home Counties.

Last month the Canadian-based Seagram acquired for

£3.7m 75 per cent of the 57-outlet Oddbins chain of wine shops.

Mr Ivan Straker, the chairman of Seagram, said he was not discussing any further takeovers at the moment. But he added: "I believe in consolidating before launching a new offensive."

S & N's decision to sell Gough, which it acquired for £4.2m in 1979, came at a time when other breweries are

increasing their off-licence presence.

Two regional breweries, each with significant off-licence interests, announced interim profits yesterday. Greenall Whitley, the largest of the regionals, reported a figure of £10.5m against just under £9m and a dividend up 7.5 per cent to 1.928p a share. Vaux Breweries, based at Sunderland, announced profits of £4.353.000 against £4.185.000. The dividend is 3.4p (3.025p).

The NUS report says that in Britain a modest 3.5 per cent electricity price increase, entirely due to the British fuel cost adjustment system, was well below the country's 5.2 per cent retail price index rise in the 12 months to April -

#### Price rises for UK 'among Europe's lowest'

#### Survey refutes power protests

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Complaints from British industry, particularly the high energy users like steel and chemicals, that their electricity costs are among the highest in Europe receive scant support in the latest world survey conducted by the American-based National Utility Services.

This shows that commercial and industrial power costs in Britain last month varied among the nine electricity boards from 3.45p to 3.6p per kilowatt hour, significantly less than the 3.7p to 4.56p per kilowatt hour charged in West Germany.

Electricité de France charged its business customers 2.95p per kilowatt hour, about 1/2p less than in Britain, but Belgian industry is paying 3.76p, the Dutch 3.57p (comparable to the UK) and the Italian 4.44p.

The NUS survey, covering 750,000 business locations, reveals that only four countries of the 12 in the study - Canada,

"although any increase during a government 'price freeze' is hardly welcome."

In Belgium, industrial consumers have experienced the third largest price for electricity in the NUS survey - a retail price increase of 6.9 per cent.

During the 12 months, Belgian oil and other feedstock costs fell by 3 per cent.

The highest electricity price increase was in Canada - 10.1 per cent - followed by Ireland with 9.2 per cent. Britain's average increase of 3.5 per cent was beaten only by Germany's 1.3 per cent. French industry paid 6.5 per cent more, the Italians 6.2 per cent more and the Swedes almost 5 per cent cheaper coal.

But the NUS report says that in Britain a modest 3.5 per cent electricity price increase, entirely due to the British fuel cost adjustment system, was well below the country's 5.2 per cent retail price index rise in the 12 months to April -

Royal Howard, an NUS spokesman, said that stable or lower oil prices had contributed to steeper retail and electricity prices, particularly in countries where oil was a major generation feedstock.

By Christopher Dunn and Wayne Lintott

Two of the City's most respected houses, Baring Brothers and Gerard and National, yesterday revealed separate plans for each to take part in the revolution in financial services.

Gerard and National, possibly the City's largest discount house, plans an aggressive three into gilt-edged jobbing, as well as a series of international moves, to benefit from the changing structure of London's financial institutions, the group revealed yesterday after announcing its annual results.

Mr Roger Gibbs, the chairman of Gerard, which earlier this year was linked with a mystery suitor in abortive bid talks, said yesterday: "It would be logical to extend our market-making activities beyond the area of short assets into the full spectrum of gilt-edged. This we intend to do, and over the next

year we will be building a team for this purpose."

Gerard's moves come some weeks after Clive Discount announced a rather more modest sortie into gilt-edged jobbing which may involve Stock Exchange membership.

The group, which denied that it is currently discussing merger business, is keen to expand existing trading connexions with both the US and Japan.

It is possible that the group is hoping to develop into a fully fledged international dealing operation in the medium term, expanding by acquisitions and organic growth.

Profits for the year to April 5, 1984, fell from £14m to £10m. The group has also transferred more to hidden reserves to cover adjustments in the Gerard leasing business arising from the Chancellor's recent legislation. Since the year

end, the group has sold its gilt-edged book and scaled down both the size and length of its total portfolio.

Baring Brothers & Co., London's oldest merchant bank, yesterday made a tentative move into the City's changing structure by buying the Far-East business of the stockbrokers Henderson Crosthwaite, for an undisclosed sum.

The agreement is subject to clearance by the regulatory authorities, particularly the Ministry of Finance in Japan, because Baring wants to change Henderson's representative office into a full branch office able to trade as a broker in Tokyo.

The Tokyo office at present supplies only information and research, but a branch office would enable Baring to deal at cheaper commissions and begin moving into the Japanese equity and bond markets.

Mr John Dare, the Baring executive dealing with the agreement, admitted that as the new company would be incorporated in London, a logical extension to its business would be an application for corporate membership of the London Stock Exchange, when the new rules permit.

Henderson's senior partner, Mr Andrew Barlow, said the decision to sell the Hongkong partnership - the whole team will move to Baring - arose partly as a result of increasing competition in London, particularly after the link between Vickers da Costa and Citicorp and the expansion of Rowe and Pitman.

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## Ultramar price fall

The shares of Ultramar dropped by 38p to 609p yesterday despite a 24 per cent rise in first-quarter pretax profits to £59.3m on turnover up 85 per cent at £784.3m.

Ultramar has confirmed that 1983's total dividend will rise by 2p to 17p and that a one-for-one scrip issue will be made.

However, interest payments jumped from £4m to £17.5m and the company says that marketing and refining divisions in eastern Canada and California were still disappointing. Strong competition, particularly in eastern Canada, sometimes drove petrol prices well below the cost of crude oil.

### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1094.4 down 15.5

FT Index: 884.9 down 11.3

FT Gilts: 80.13 down 0.35

FT All Share: 517.16 down 7.70

Bargains: 20,045

Oastream USM Leaders Index: 116.3 down 1.63

New York Commodity Average: 10,167.61 up 2.05

Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,679.71 down 180.58

Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 921.31 down 18.40

Amsterdam: 178.5 down 1.0

Sydney: AO Index 747.9 down 2.6

Frankfurt Commerzbank Index: 102.05 down 9.9

Brussels: General Index 154.56 down 0.08

Paris: CAC Index 178.9 down 2.0

Zurich: SKA General 317.20 unchanged

### CURRENCIES

#### LONDON CLOSE

Sterling: £1.3850 down 1/2 cent

DM 3.8425 down 0.0025

Fr 11.80 up 0.0150

Yen 31.75 down 0.75

Dollar: Index 131.9 up 0.3

DM 2.7750 down 0.0122

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling: £1.3790

Dollar: DM 2.7765

INTERNATIONAL

ECU 5.952500

SOR 20.751534

The pound hit yet another low against the dollar yesterday, tumbling 1/4 cents to \$1.3750. But by the close of trading in London, it recovered to \$1.3850, thanks to intervention by European central banks and laic nervousness concerning reported difficulties at Continental Illinois Bank.

In the House, the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said at Treasury question time that there were "signs of a welcome change in the attitude of the US administration towards their deficit". Nevertheless, he said, the US deficit would be on the agenda at the economic summit in London next month.

Mr Lawson added: "The rise in US interest rates is unwelcome, but it is not a bitter blow. There will always be fluctuations, particularly with what is happening in America. We cannot be wholly immune to what is happening in the United States."

### STERLING/DOLLAR

1.48

1.46

1.44

1.42

1.40

1.38

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY

London fixed (per ounce): am \$370.10 pm \$371.75 close \$373.50 - 374 (£270-270.50) New York (latest): \$373.25 Krugerrand (per coin): \$385-386.50 (£278.25-279.25)

## The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

### Interim Results

	6 months to 31.3.84	6 months to 31.3.83	12 months to 30.9.83
Profit before taxation	£56.8m	£31.2m	£95.5m
Profit after taxation	£23.8m	£22.0m	£80.6m
Profit before extraordinary items attributable to ordinary shareholders	£36.4m	£21.6m	£95.1m
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	16.1p	9.6p	35.4p
before exceptional items	16.1p	9.6p	42.1p
after exceptional items	3.3p	3.0p	7.4p
Dividend per 25p ordinary share			

The profit and loss account for the twelve months ended 30 September 1983

## STOCK MARKET

# Fears of US bank crisis hit index

Michael Clark

Fears that one of America's biggest banks, the Continental Illinois, was in difficulties sent a shudder through Wall Street last night and could have serious repercussions on the London stock market when dealings resume this morning.

Reports about the US bank had been circulating for several days. As a result share prices in New York lost an early firm start as the price of Continental Illinois slumped \$1 to \$1.3% - a two-day fall of 5%. Street analysis now fear that Continental Illinois will be forced to cut its dividend in August resulting in renewed weakness in the shares.

A spokesman for the group last night confirmed that its federal funding desk was operating normally, but refused to comment on speculation that the group had applied for bankruptcy proceedings to be initiated. The reports started after two of the group's clients, the Charter Co and Public Services of New Hampshire, applied for receivers to be appointed.

The news was badly received in London and was mainly responsible for the FT Index closing at its low for the day, 11.3 down at 884.9, having seen prices attempt a rally after hours.

Dealers in London also remain fearful of another rise in domestic interest rates owing to the pound's continued weakness on the foreign exchanges, where at one stage it hit another low against the dollar.

This was reflected in gilts

where losses of up to £1 were reported in longs. The only improvements were seen in the index-linked stocks which closed with gains of £1.

Deals in Worpleson, the systems information service, made a good start despite the general depression elsewhere in the market. The 10 million shares were offered by way of tender at a minimum tender price of 240p and were offered by way of tender at a minimum

Turner's decision to form a joint roof tile venture with Amyl Roadstone, part of Consolidated Gold Fields, could be bad news for Britain's market leaders. Redland and Marley. Analysts believe the new venture will add 10 per cent to existing market capacity and result in lower margins. The news mixed 9p off Redland's 27p record, and left Marley 11p lower at 84p.

tender price of 240p and were 1.9 times oversubscribed. Yesterday the shares opened at 31p compared with the striking price of 27p, but profit-taking produced a closing price of 30p. A premium of 31p in first time dealings.

Investment company, the Bishopsgate Trust, has received an approach from an unnamed suitor which the board says, could lead to an offer for the company being made. Earlier this week the Equitable Life Assurance Society announced it had increased its holding to 2.6 million shares, or 11 per cent of the total. Bishopsgate re-

sponded to the news with a rise of 29p to another new high of 190p.

Brokers Rowe & Pitman has successfully placed the rump of British Car Auction's recent £1m rights issue. The remaining 1.8 million shares, 10.9 per cent, were placed with institutions at 103.87p. Mr David Wickens, chairman of BCA, said he planned to use the money to help finance the group's US acquisition. Shares of BCA recovered an early fall to close unchanged at 107p.

Meanwhile, Mr David Wickens associate Mr Michael Ashcroft, has increased his holding in Henlys, Coleman Mitre, the luxury car conversion group, has bought an extra 700,000 shares taking its total holding to 3.5 million, or 24.98 per cent. Henlys was unmoved by the news at 121p.

Horizon Travel, the package tour group, slipped 4p to 171p after the Greater Manchester Transport Executive announced it had sold part of its holding amounting to 750,000 shares. This reduces the stake it shares with the Lancashire United Transport to 3.47 million

shares. On Wednesday it brought an extra 100,000 shares in Macpherson lifting its total holding to 1.6 million shares, or 8.8 per cent. The Finnish group had 125p a share topping Yale Carte's earlier bid of 110p a share. Dealers are now hoping that Yale Carte will increase its offer.

Plan Invest, the unit trust portfolio adviser, which joined the USM recently rose 3p to 73p after the Edinburgh Financial Trust announced it had in-

creased its holding to 9.09 per cent of the equity.

Equity turnover on May 9, was £237,758m (19,208 bargains). The number of British and Irish stocks traded were 134.4 million. Gilt bargains totalled 3,659.

• BORDER & SOUTHERN STOCKHOLDERS TRUST: Half-year to March 31, 1984. Pre-tax revenue £2.52m (£2.58m). Interim payment 1.3p (same). Full year's revenue may be reduced. But board expects to pay at least same dividends as last year, drawing if necessary on reserves.

• OCEANA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT TRUST: Year to March 31, 1984. Gross revenue £73,000 (£50,000). Dividend 2p (1.82p).

• MINTY: Year to Jan. 28, 1984. Turnover £3.49m (£3.42m). Pre-tax profit £19,600 (£21,210). Dividend 4p (same).

• APPLEYARD GROUP: Appleyard has disposed of its interest in leasehold premises at North Street, Leeds, which have been unoccupied since Sept. 1981. The existing lease has been surrendered and Appleyard has paid £130,000 on the surrender. A two-year lease of the second half should reflect what sounds like a gathering storm of demand, with prices rising. Add in the sharp recovery on the carbon graphite side, where nearly all the £1m upswing into profit too place in the second quarter, and it is hardly surprising that both company and analysts are looking for a record-breaking year.

The key factor in the BOC trading equation is tucked away in the interim statement - "not only have volumes on industrial gases increased in the US, but because of tightening supply and demand, prices have risen." The US capital spending recovery has arrived, and BOC should enjoy a geared participation.

The group is already talking about some fairly spectacular gains. Compared with the first half last year oxygen and argon sales are ahead by 30 and 50 per cent respectively, a direct result, according to BOC, of the resurgence in the steel and metal fabrication industries in America. Excess capacity has been dropping out, discounts have been absorbed and prices rose in April by some 7 per cent.

On the regional basis, this improvement translates into more than doubled profits for BOC's American interests, while the divisional breakdown gives a more modest upturn in gas profits, from £56m to £63m.

But as BOC stresses in

typically exuberant style,

the capital upturn only started filtering through around the turn of the year. The whole of the second half should reflect

what sounds like a gathering

storm of demand, with prices

rising. Add in the sharp

recovery on the carbon graphite side, where nearly all the £1m upswing into profit too

place in the second quarter, and it is hardly surprising that both company and analysts are looking for a record-breaking year.

The second implicit reason

is defensive. Debenhams is much stronger than it was and the chances of a bid from Mr Gerald Ronson or anyone else

have receded. But should the bid come, Welbeck could play an important role in keeping shareholders loyal.

Welbeck's performance has

also masked the big upturn in

trading profits from the depart

ment stores themselves.

Debenhams believes it has

found the formula which will

allow the department store to

survive in the 21st century and

no doubt Professor Roland

Smith at House of Fraser will

be pondering yesterday's fig

ures. The growth in profits

substantially down on last year.

The stores have benefited

greatly from increased credit

sales by offering special deals

to credit customers. About 27

per cent of Debenhams sales

are on credit but the long-term

aim is to get that figure up to

more than 50 per cent like

Sears Roebuck in the US. Such

high levels of credit sales give

Debenhams greater control

over its customers and will

steer them towards the financial

and property services in

start on a trial basis in a few

months.

The actual tax ratio is 102

and the yield is more than 6

per cent with the shares down

5p at 177p. Given the confi

dence of the chairman, Mr Bob

Thornton, about profits

growth, this does not look

expensive.

## TEMPUS

# BOC sceptics fear the rainbow's end

Theoretically these should improve on the first half's average profits gain of a third, as the US resurgence rippled outwards.

Sadly, however, the stock

market, paralleled by Dr Henry

Kaufman's strictures on rates,

had no intention of biving off its

Welbeck Finance credit sub

sidary. The reasons are two-fold:

the first spoken, the second

more quietly implied. Last

year Welbeck made 40 per cent

of Debenhams profits with a

more than doubled contribu

tion of £17m, against £8m.

This growth is expected to

continue and Debenhams sees

Welbeck as a cornerstone of

the mainstream business.

Debenhams wants to benefit

from the expected spectacular

growth over the next few years

rather than let outsiders in.

The second implicit reason

is defensive. Debenhams is

much stronger than it was and

the chances of a bid from Mr

Gerald Ronson or anyone else

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expensive.

## Bunzl sells US holding

By Andrew Cornelius

Bunzl, the paper and packaging group, yesterday formally ended its long-standing relationship with the American Filtron Corporation by selling its 20 per cent holding in the company to AFC for £3.5m.

The corporation was established to manufacture cigarette filters for the US market.

At the same time, AFC agreed to place its 10 per cent holding in Bunzl in the London stock market at 517p a share. Both agreements must be approved by Bunzl shareholders.

Mr Ernest Beaumont, the Bunzl chairman, said that the cross-holding between the two companies no longer makes any strategic or commercial sense.

He said that the agreement went back to a time when both

## £10m turnaround in first half at AE

By Andrew Corcoran

AE, formerly Associated Engineering, yesterday announced a dramatic turnaround in profits in the half year to March 31, which the company says justifies its fight to remain independent following the takeover attempt by Guest, Keen & Settlefields.

Pretax profits of £8.2m at the interim stage compare with losses of £2.3m at the same stage last year, on sales which grew by £12m to £203.7m.

Mr John Collyear, the chairman, said: "The prospects for the year vindicate the views I expressed in the 1983 report and accounts that AE has a good future as a continuing independent company."

He said that the group would now concentrate on organic growth and plans to spend £10m this year on fixed investment. "The constraint is the availability of plant and materials, not resources," Mr Collyear said.

The improvement in trading was helped by a 20 per cent increase in exports compared with the previous year, with the

### WALL STREET

## Dow rises as bonds fall

The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead almost 4 per cent shortly after the market opened.

Declines led advances 124-396 among the 1,281 issues crossing the New York Stock Exchange tape.

Analysts said at the outset that selling was likely to continue.

Investors will be watching closely as the Treasury auctions off 30-year bonds worth \$4.25 billion, to complete its three-day \$1.65 billion second-quarter refunding programme.

## Turner and Newall set for 50% profit rise

Sir Francis Tomba, the chairman of Turner and Newall, told yesterday's annual meeting that since the end of 1982 the industrial materials group had undergone substantial changes, but he was confident that it was now positioned for further progress.

He also told shareholders that operating experiences to date are well in accord with his earlier expectation of 1984's pretax profits being at least 50 per cent higher than those at 1983. Much of the improvement is likely to come from British companies where accrued tax losses make them especially valuable.

However, the economic situation in India and Africa continues to be difficult and these traditional supporters of the group's profitability will make a smaller contribution in 1984.

The bulk of the "dramatic surgery" within the group is now complete and in a number of places in Britain Turner has been recruiting small numbers. There are distinct signs of improved demand at home in some sectors, but the construction sector generally remains depressed.

### In brief

• **HOLT LLOYD INTERNATIONAL:** Year to Feb 25, 1984. Sales £55.04m (£52.87m). Pretax profits £4.23m (£2.06m). Dividend unchanged at 3.17p. Board expects total dividends for current year to be not less than 3.5p on capital increased by the recently announced rights issue.

• **WARNER ESTATE HOLDINGS:** Half-year to March 31, 1984. Turnover £3.31m (£4.4m). Pretax profit

**WOODHOUSE & RINSON (HOLDINGS):** Total dividend for 1983 halved to 0.75p a share. Turnover £8.6m (£11.42m). Pretax loss £444,000 (£643,000 profit). Trading in the first quarter of 1984 showed a marked improvement on last two quarters of 1983.

• **CO-OPERATIVE RETAIL SERVICES:** In their annual report, directors say prospects appear brighter than for some time. Policies formulated in recent years are now being seen to be effective and they are confident of further progress in current year.

• **JOHN FOSTER & SON:** Year to March 2, 1984. Pretax profit £603,000 (£45,000). Turnover £17.02m (£14.7m). Total dividend 2.25p (1.5p).

• **LINREAD:** Mr D. G. Lynall, chairman, told the annual meeting: "The first quarter of 1984 has shown continuing improvement in our recovery programme. A slightly higher customer demand has helped our progress, but the majority of it is due to improvements from last year's drastic reorganisation. In spite of the significant improvement in our fortunes we clearly still have a very long way to go before reaching what we would consider to be an acceptable level of performance."

• **MARINE ADVENTURE SAILING TRUST:** Half-year to Jan 31, 1984. Pretax profit £47,000 (£41,000).

• **VOYAGER PETROLEUM INTERNATIONAL:** Expamet has bought Signfix, makers of patented steel clips etc. The immediate consideration is 265,700 in cash and shares. Additional deferred consideration is payable, depending on profits.

• **UK:** Board reports that negotiations which were expected to lead to the sale of an 80 per cent interest in Voyager and a subsequent offer for the minority shares have been broken off. Accordingly, no sale and no offer are being made.



### Interim statement

SKF Group sales rose 11% for the first three months of 1984 compared with the corresponding 1983 period. Profit before exchange differences increased to 244 million kronor (103).

	Jan/March 1984	Jan/March 1983
Sales (MSkr)	4,469	4,045
Operating income before depreciation (MSkr)	458	313
Income before exchange differences (MSkr)	244	103
Capital expenditure (MSkr)	94	119
Average number of employees at work	42,920	42,272

All main product groups recorded volume growth but prices continued to develop slowly. The sales revenue, however, increased faster than both cost of goods sold and selling expenses. Inventory turnover was further improved and at the end of the period under review, inventories fell below 40% of annual sales for the first time.

AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden

## FIRST QUARTER RESULTS FOR 1984

# Royal Insurance

The results for the first quarter are set out below; these should not be taken as providing a reliable indication of the outcome for the year as a whole.

	3 months to 31 March 1984 (unaudited) £m	3 months to 31 March 1983 (unaudited) £m	Year 1983 (audited) £m
General Insurance:			
Premiums Written .....	523.4	498.8	1,910.1
Underwriting Balance .....	-101.6	-64.2	-209.6
Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations	54.7	47.2	204.2
General Insurance Result .....	-46.9	-17.0	-5.4
Long-term Insurance Profit .....	4.9	4.1	17.5
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves .....	18.0	19.3	75.1
Share of Associated Companies' Profits .....	3.6	2.8	11.2
Profit before Taxation .....	-20.4	9.2	98.4
Less Taxation .....	1.3	7.1	17.8
Minority Interests .....	0.0	0.2	0.4
Net Profit attributable to the Shareholders .....	-19.1	16.1	80.2
Earnings per share .....	10.1p (loss)	8.5p	42.5p
Capital and Reserves .....	£1,604m	£1,324m	£1,652m

### EXCHANGE RATES

Foreign currencies have been translated according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:-

USA .....	\$1.44	\$1.53	\$1.51
Canada .....	\$1.80	\$1.87	\$1.87
Australia .....	\$1.54	\$1.62	\$1.68
Netherlands .....	Fls4.38	Fls4.07	Fls4.33

The pre-tax result has been adversely affected by £2m due to changes in exchange rates, the underwriting balance being worsened by £3.7m with investment income and Associated Companies benefiting by £1.7m.

	3 months to 31 March 1984	3 months to 31 March 1983						
	Premiums Written £m	Under-Writing Balance £m	Allocated Investment Income £m	General Insurance Result £m	Premiums Written £m	Under-Writing Balance £m	Allocated Investment Income £m	General Insurance Result £m
Royal USA .....	206.1	-60.2	26.7	-33.5	218.2	-43.5	20.2	-23.3
Royal UK .....	158.3	-25.5	14.2	-11.3	139.1	-12.9	13.3	0.4
Royal Canada .....	46.2	-9.1	6.8	-2.3	44.4	-2.4	6.9	4.5
Royal Australia .....	34.5	1.1	2.6	3.7	19.6	-2.6	2.4	-0.2
Royal Int. ....	34.3	-2.8	1.8	-1.0	34.3	-0.4	1.8	1.4
Royal Nederland .....	24.2	-1.4	1.5	0.1	25.7	-1.4	1.5	0.1
Royal Re .....	19.8	-3.7	1.1	-2.6	17.5	-1.0	1.1	0.1
	523.4	-101.6	54.7	-46.9	498.8	-64.2	47.2	-17.0

### INVESTMENT INCOME

Total investment income of £72.7m increased in sterling terms by over 9%; allowing for changes in rates of exchange the growth was 6%.

### GENERAL INSURANCE

Premium income rose by 5% in sterling; allowing for the effect of currency changes, the increase was over 3%. Details for the individual operating companies are as follows:-

In the United States the operating ratio was 126.0% (1983: 117.9%). The very poor result was mainly due to a high claims frequency on commercial multi-peril business, in part due to weather, and a substantial worsening compared with the first quarter of last year in the workers' compensation and general liability accounts. Despite the effect of weather losses there was some improvement in personal lines due to better experience in the automobile business. Rate increases and remedial underwriting action have already led to a significant reduction in premium volume in dollar terms; notwithstanding this further measures are being taken in view of the unsatisfactory results.

Premium volume increased by almost 14% in the UK. The personal and commercial property accounts were adversely affected by the extremely severe weather losses which are estimated at £32m. Results overall in the other major lines were somewhat better than in the corresponding period last year.

The deterioration in the result in Canada was due to worse experience in the commercial automobile and general liability accounts. The premium volume in local terms was virtually unchanged.

In Australia the improving trend seen throughout 1983 continued with strong premium growth, particularly in commercial lines, and a further reduction in the expense ratio. The result represents a substantial advance on the corresponding period last year, which was, however, heavily affected by the bushfire losses costing £3.4m net.

Further heavy losses in Western Europe and the impact of severe flood claims in New Zealand accounted for the deterioration in the Royal Int. result.

In Royal Nederland the result was similar to the first quarter last year.

Experience in Royal Re's proportional treaty account continued to worsen and particularly in facultative and home foreign business there was an increase in the number of large property losses.

### ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE

New annual premiums written by Royal Life during the first three months of 1984 increased by 55% to £18.3m and new single premiums rose by 37% to £22.9m. Endowment mortgage business was very satisfactory and sales of unit-linked business increased by over 100%. The long-term insurance profit of £4.9m (£4.1m) represents a quarter of the estimated contribution for the whole year.

### CAPITAL AND RESERVES

The figures as at 31 March 1984 and year end 1983 include the Long-term Insurance Business Reserve of £225m first established at 31 December 1983.

Royal Insurance plc,  
Group Head Office,  
1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

## Gerrard & National PLC

Results for the year ended 5th April 1984

	1984	1983
Profit for the year	£10.17m	£14.205m
Total cost of Dividends	£5.59m	£2.992m
Dividend Shareholders Funds	£5.14m	£45.347m
Total Assets	£5.194 million	£2.349.012m

Group Profit for the year. Gross Profit after providing for taxation, minority interests and transfer to Losses. Reserves amounted to £10.17m (1983 £14.205m).

Dividend. It is proposed that a final dividend of 9p (1983 7p) be paid on the basis of 25p (1983 25p). When added to the proposed dividend of 25p (1983 25p) this makes a total of 16p (1983 50p) an increase of 20%. The proposed dividends will be paid to Shareholders on or before 25th April 1984. The date of record is the 24th April 1984.

Dividend Shareholders Funds. The Dividend Shareholders Funds stand at £5.14m million compared with £45.347m last year.

## Schroder Wagg names division head

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co: Mr Peter Sedgwick has been appointed head of the investment division with effect from July 2. He succeeds Mr Gordon Popham who, earlier this year, was appointed group managing director of investment management and personal financial services worldwide for the Schroder Group. Mr Bernard Crowder has been appointed a director with effect from July 16. He will be managing director of the Singapore International Merchant Bankers, an associated company.

### APPOINTMENTS

of the Schroder Group and he will be based in Singapore. Seagram UK: Mr Brendan Carr has become director of finance and administration. He will continue as company secretary. Wendy Restaurants (UK): Mr Jack St Clair has been appointed managing director. He succeeds Mr David McLeod, who leaves to join Berni Inns.

Barclays Bank: Mr John Quinton and Mr Andrew Buxton are to become vice-

chairmen after the proposed merger of Barclays Bank and Barclays Bank International on January 1, 1985. Mr Peter Leslie becomes chief general manager and three senior general managers are named: Mr Peter Ardon (International), Mr Robert Sale (UK), and Mr Humphrey Norrington (Finance). There are two new general manager appointments: Mr Trevor Nicholas (Resources) and Mr Ted Foster (Corporate). All other members of senior management retain their present functions.

## ROBECO and ROLINCO

### SHARE SPLIT

At the Annual General Meeting of Robeco NV and the Extraordinary Meeting for shareholders of Rolinco NV, both held on 29th March 1984, proposals to amend the Articles of Association of the two Companies were approved by the shareholders and pursuant to these amendments, effective 1st May 1984, the par value of the Ordinary Shares in each Company has been changed from Fls.50 to Fls.10 resulting in a five-for-one stock split.

The Sub-shares have also been subject to a 5:1 split, following which each Sub-share now represents one tenth of a fully paid Ordinary Share of Fls.10.

Holders of Warrants to Bearer (cum Cops No 83 to 128 only in the case of Robeco and Cops No 26 to 34 only in the case of Rolinco) and/or Sub-share Certificates registered in the name of National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited and other names, should present these, accompanied by the special lodgement form(s) to:

National Westminster Bank PLC.,  
Stock Office Services,  
3rd Floor (Counter),  
20 Old Broad Street,  
LONDON EC2

(on business days, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) for OVERSTAMPING to show that the warrants/certificates in current issue now represent five times the number of shares or Sub-shares indicated therein.

Separate lodgement forms exist for the Bearer shares and Sub-shares and are obtainable from the above address.

## ROBECO ROLINCO

The balanced  
income/growth trust

The growth trust  
of the Robeco Group

## Big rise in whisky output expected

By Jeremy Warner

Scotland's whisky distilleries are beginning to gear up for a big jump in production after more than four years of drastic cuts.

A number of distilleries, some of which have been operating at as little as 10 per cent of capacity, are to increase production by as much as as a fifth this year and will prepare for a surge in demand next year as well.

The industry is optimistic that the heavy destocking, which has been a feature of the recession, has at last come to an end, and, that even if there is no re-stocking, Scotch whisky blenders will at last start to replenish what they are using now.

A sustained improvement in demand from the blenders will benefit many small isolated Highland and island communities where the distilleries are often an important source of employment.

At the Highland Park Distillery, at Kirkwall, on Orkney, Mr Jim Lochhead, the manager, reckons it will soon be necessary to take on extra staff.

"We are planning to lift

production of Highland Park by

about 20 per cent this year to

take the distillery up to 35 per

cent capacity utilization," he

says. At its peak, the distillery

employed 48 people but this

has been reduced to 32.

"The signs are that we will see a more significant jump still in production during 1985 and we could well find ourselves short of staff" says Mr Lochhead.

Most distilleries will again operate an extended silent season of four months this year, but among the top malt distilleries the products of which are widely used in the leading blends, there is a noticeable change in mood.

## BSG International in £10m cash call

By William Kay, City Editor

Less than a month after announcing yearly results, the motor distributor BSG International has returned to the stock market to ask shareholders for £10.1m through a one-for-one rights issue at 17p a share compared with 21p for the existing shares ahead of the deal.

## J. Hewitt & Son (Fenton) P.L.C.

Manufacturers of domestic and industrial refractories, kiln furniture and electrical porcelain

	1983 £'000s	1982 £'000s	1981 £'000s
Sales	7,427	4,970	4,489
Profit before tax	1,030	488	374
Profit retained	536	262	275
Earnings per share	27.4p	14.1p	14.2p
Dividend per share	3.6p	2.4p	1.96p

Extract from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. D. K. Hewitt:

have continued to increase.

It is too early to give a positive indication of 1984 but present trends suggest that it will be difficult to maintain the rather exceptional profit we achieved in 1983.

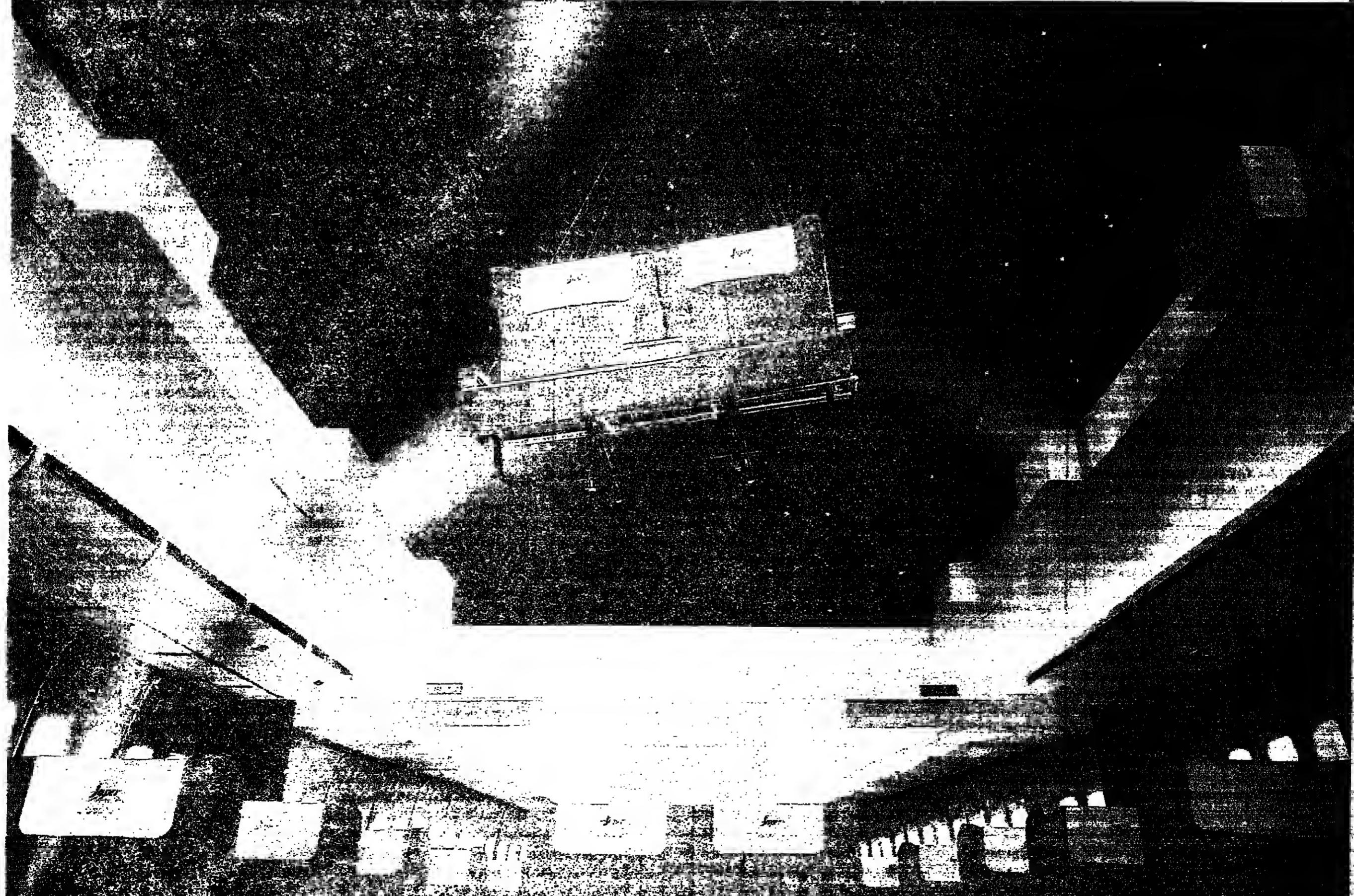
## BANK OF SCOTLAND

### Base Rate

The Bank of Scotland intimates that, with effect from 10th May, 1984, and until further notice, its Base Rate will be increased from 8½ PER ANNUM to 9¼ PER ANNUM.

LONDON, BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE & SOUTHAMPTON OFFICES - DEPOSITS

The rate of interest on sums lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal will be 5¾% PER ANNUM, also with effect from 10th May 1984.



## The widest seat in the air.

**Super Club**

Our new Super Club business class offers you the widest seats in the air. So wide that they aren't the easiest to fit through the door. And so wide that

there is only room to fit them in six abreast instead of the usual eight. But though the seats may be few and far between, the cabin attendants are not. There

are just as many of them as before, which means they can now give you more personal care and attention than ever.

So now Super Club is on all our long-haul routes, you'll find that however far you go your flight will be a calm and restful one.

**British airways**

The world's favourite airline

Just as I said

## ● Waste into workshops

# Help at hand for the high-tech failures

By Derek Harris  
A management group has been launched to tackle problems of small businesses in high-technology areas, including what is believed to be a large failure rate.

The unit, at the London Business School, will be an extension of the work of the Institute of Small Business Management (ISBN) which has been operating at the school for more than 10 years. Stuart Slatter, who is director of the ISBN, will also be director of the new unit.

David Trippier, minister with responsibility for small businesses yesterday inaugurated the unit, which is being financed for the next four years by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants.

It followed recently announced backing by Ernst & Whinney, another firm of accountants, for a four-year research fellowship which will allow investigation by ISBN of the problems of growth companies in service industries.

Dr Slatter said: "The thrust of the ISBN is to look at problems of growth and that has led us into the two major sectors of high technology and the service industries. That leaves one area which we believe should be especially explored: the problems of delegation in family-controlled businesses."



Dr Slatter: exploring problems

As part of the Coopers & Lybrand initiative, a pilot study of 60 companies in a wide variety of high-technology areas was started in February. Sectors like telecommunications, bi-medical innovation and microelectronics are being explored with company studies. First results should show up in the autumn leading to seminars, workshops and courses to put over the research findings together with published material.

Some pre-call factors with high-technology small businesses have already emerged. Such companies need to take an international stance much earlier in their corporate development. They are also managing professionals rather than shop-floor workers. Dr Slatter added: "clearly the failure rate

among high-technology-based companies is going to prove to be very high."

An assessment of the work before the new unit yesterday suggested that a "significant proportion" of small companies which are successful in innovation are unsuccessful in the formulation and implementation of business strategies. That was the reason for the high failure rate among such small businesses even though they might have technologically superior products, it was suggested.

Yet small companies account for a significant proportion of the technological innovations in Britain and therefore play a strategically important role in determining Britain's future technological leadership. the report said.

The new unit wants to promote the teaching of management of small high-technology companies not only at London Business School but more widely in Britain to increase the flow of managers equipped to tackle their characteristic problems. It also aims to be a catalyst in bringing about changes to support and promote such companies in Britain.

● Contact: Dr Stuart Slatter, London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA (01) 362 5050.

## Getting derelicts back to work

Aid under a scheme to promote the conversion of derelict rural buildings into workshops is being cut back. Derek Harris writes.

The Development Commission is cutting grant aid from 35 per cent of a project's cost to 25 per cent.

The grant cut is being made so that as many projects as possible can be helped within the constraints of the commission's financial ceiling. The scheme, an experimental one, is administered by the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira), the executive arm of the commission which tackles economic and social problems in rural areas.

The scheme - first launched in the autumn, 1982 - was restricted to comparatively few rural areas, but was extended to many other parts of England in March last year. In the last six months before the extension

involving grants of around £1m.

Applications for aid are expected to continue at a rate of 300 a year, says the commission. The new grant rate applied from May 1 but any projects already in the pipeline by then will remain eligible for grants up to the 35 per cent level. Grants until now have been running on average between £5,000 and £7,000.

The scheme has ushered in conversions of a wide range of rural buildings, including disused barns, mills and forges, but is now under review ahead of the termination of the experiment in March next year. The commission says that the lower rate is the one it would hope to retain should the scheme be extended beyond next March. It still

needs to be profitably set about picking the brains of



Philippa Fraser and bottles: a taste for good business

## First of the season's wine - in Scotland

wine-makers in the South of England and Italy. "I had to acquire a lot of knowledge very fast," she said. "Now I have chemists in England I can call up for advice."

She turns out six different wines made from elderflower, meadowsweet, rowanberry, silver birch sap and red and white grapes from England. She also makes mead and her first liqueur - sloe gin - was introduced last November.

Starting up involved reroofing a few outbuildings and stables to house the 50-gallon vat and 550-gallon storage casks. The fermenting room which has to be maintained at a steady 75 degrees Centigrade is three old stables knocked together. Mrs.

Fraser also required an Excise licence to sell to the trade and she has since acquired an off sales licence to catch passing tourists, custom and a public house licence with a view to opening a wine bar. Last year more than 16,000 people visited the castle.

She describes the business as like domestic wine-making but on a larger scale. That scale has been increasing since 1980 - she now employs 12 full-time staff and six part-time during the harvest rush.

The wines have more than 500 outlets throughout Scotland, in hotels, restaurants and the Wine Lodge and Peter Dominic chains. But sales south of the border are limited to the

## Easing a path to government contracts

### BRIEFING

■ The small firms' route to government contracts is being made a little easier. Until this month only small-value orders of 25,000 or less were exempt from specific approval procedures, but the limit has now been raised to £10,000. David Trippier, minister for small business, says the change should particularly benefit new suppliers and small firms seeking government business.

Under examination is the possibility of simplifying and standardizing the process by which

small firms can apply for contracts.

■ Aimed particularly at those

starting up a company a series of six handbook-sized books,

each in a new departure

accompanied by illustrative software which can subsequently be used to help manage a firm's day-to-day operations.

■ The software is available from

the Department of Trade and

Industry, 081-550 5000, and costs £56-60.

■ First

last year

Wavy Line

## Each book stands alone; subjects covered include cash flow control, business performance

measurement, costing and pricing and evaluating capital expenditure.

The software present runs on Apple II or Apple II Plus but will be extended to other micros later.

Cost is £28.75 for each book with software and including VAT but there is no restriction on buying the whole series. Contact: David Swithin, Spiers and Peeler Associates, St Mary's

55-60

(01)

■ First

last year

Wavy Line

group of small grocers operating as a "symbol" chain with typically husband-and-wife teams operating as franchisees. Out of 3,500 outlets more than 120 have now been revamped under the chain's TOP (Trader's Opportunity Plan) scheme which has so far produced 10 early participants an average 16 per cent sales uplift. Another 70 outlets are now joining the TOP scheme, with a total of 350 expected to be converted by it.

Colannade has no track record. Its offer for subscription was arranged by Brown Goldie & Co., which controls the financial services arm of Abaco and E. B. Savory Mills & Co. the stockbrokers. Brown Goldie will act as investment manager and Savory Mills will be investment adviser.

Mr Goldie added: "It is true that everything in the City judged on the basis of a track record. But then going around to institutions to raise money for investment, they were impressed with us."

But preening small firms is not what Colannade sees as its prime job. It is a development capital fund, hoping to earn profits as the investments it makes in unquoted companies mature into public companies. It will also apply for a full list of its own shares in about two years.

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FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	515.85 (522.92)
500 SHARE INDEX	565.16 (573.18)
EARNINGS YIELD	10.20 (10.12)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.31% (4.25%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.07 (12.25)
ALL-SHARE INDEX	517.16 (524.86)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.52% (4.45%)
* estimated	

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Widespread selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 30. Dealings end today. \$ Contango Day, May 14. Settlement Day, May 21

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1983/84 High Low Stock	Int. Gross Units Red Price Chg's Yield 1984	1983/84 High Low Company	Gross Div Yld Price Chg's pence % P/E	1983/84 High Low Company	Gross Div Yld Price Chg's pence % P/E	1983/84 High Low Company	Gross Div Yld Price Chg's pence % P/E	1983/84 High Low Company	Gross Div Yld Price Chg's pence % P/E
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>									
SHORTS									
100% Exch 1984	88%	1,022 13 289	203 Amersham Inv 198 8.4 15.5 1.2 1.4	260 ERES 13.2 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	291 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	48 Loogton Inv 62 1.4 2.2 47.4 1.2	128 Stalwart Inv 328 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Northern Trust 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Northern Trust 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,911 9,613	115 Anglia TV' 190 1.8 5.3 1.2 1.4	192 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	292 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	49 Lorrie 57 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Standard Inv 328 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Standard Inv 328 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Standard Inv 328 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	14,476 9,284	120 Anglo Amer Ind 191 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	193 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	293 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	50 Eleco Hidge 14 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Eleco Hidge 14 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Eleco Hidge 14 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 Eleco Hidge 14 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,191 10,824	121 Anglo Amer Inv 191 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	194 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	294 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	51 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	14,476 9,284	122 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	195 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	295 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	52 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,191 10,824	123 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	196 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	296 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	53 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	124 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	197 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	297 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	54 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	125 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	198 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	298 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	55 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	126 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	199 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	299 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	56 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	127 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	200 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	300 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	57 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	128 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	201 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	301 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	58 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	129 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	202 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	302 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	59 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	130 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	203 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	303 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	60 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	131 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	204 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	304 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	61 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	132 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	205 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	305 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	62 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	133 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	206 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	306 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	63 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	134 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	207 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	307 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	64 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	135 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	208 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	308 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	65 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	136 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	209 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	309 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	66 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	137 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	210 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	310 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	67 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	138 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	211 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	311 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	68 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	129 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4
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100% Exch 1984	100%	11,379 10,401	140 Anglia Inv 190 2.0 17.4 1.2 1.4	213 ERS A/Priest Inv 120 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	313 1.2 1.4 1.2 1.4	7			

## Kuwait appeals for cooperation on oil

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A call for closer cooperation between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on oil production levels has been made by Sheikh Nasser Obammed Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber, a member of the Kuwaiti Government.

Speaking at an oil industry seminar in Durham yesterday, he called for Britain to follow Mexico, the other leading non-Opec oil exporter, to enter into an informal agreement. He also warned the European petrochemicals industry against attempting to set up trade barriers to keep the emerging Arab petrochemical industry out of the world markets.

Britain is now producing 2.5 million barrels of oil a day from the North Sea compared with 2.1 million when Opec made its present price and production agreement in London last March. Since then, various sectors within Opec have been arguing that Britain should keep to the 2.1 million barrel-a-day level during the present period of slack demand.

## UEI sees profits falter

By Ian Griffiths

UEI, the electronic and engineering company, saw pre-tax profits for the year to January slip back from £9.4m to £8.2m, mainly because the Cowes Group, which makes racing car engines and components, failed to produce an expected upturn before the year-end.

There was also a marked reduction in aerospace orders for the Yewlands Group towards the end of 1983, reflecting a generally sluggish

market.

There were also signs of improvement at Cowes, which has expanded its engineering division to cope with several design contracts for major motor manufacturers. It has also won a major four-year contract with Mercedes-Benz

## Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on May 11, 1984, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be increased from 8½ per cent to 9¼ per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's Demand Deposit Account will be at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum.

**Hill Samuel & Co. Limited**  
100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AL  
Telephone: 01-628 8011

## NATIONAL Girobank

National Girobank announces that with effect from 10th May 1984.

### Base Rate

Its base rate was raised from 8½% to 9%.

### Deposit Accounts

The rate of interest payable on deposit accounts will be 6% per annum.

10 Milk Street LONDON EC2V 8JH



## Allied Irish Banks Limited

announce that with effect from close of business on 11th May 1984 its Base Rate is increased from 8¾% to 9½% p.a.

Head Office - Britain: 64-66 Coleman Street London EC2R 5AL

## AMERICA'S CUP: ROYAL THAMES AIM AT HIGH BUDGET AND LOW PROFILE

# Easton's £6m challenge

By David Miller

The success of Britain's America's Cup challenge in 1987 under the Royal Thames flag will depend considerably on the ability of West Nally, the public relations company, to raise sponsorship worth a minimum £4.5m over the next six months. The firm is optimistic of being able to find the kind of sum which Peter de Savary, for instance, was not prepared to invest a second time out of his own resources.

The Royal Thame have decided to give their backing to a syndicate formed under the name of Admiral Sir Ian Easton, former Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, as opposed to the alternative syndicate which was being marshalled by Kit Hobbday, vice-chairman of the Victory '83 syndicate last year.

It seems that Royal Thame did not wish for a high-profile campaign such as Hobbday might have conducted, though his substantial experience over two America's Cup campaigns may yet be taken on board by the preferred syndicate.

Royal Thame had declined any interest before Royal Thame submitted the British entry.

Hobbday did not have exclusively De Savary's offer to doosote £400,000-worth of equipment, including his first 12 metre, the Dubois-designed Victory '82, which will be available to the Eastern group.

De Savary is keen to provide



Admiral Sir Ian Easton: challenger

the knowledge gained from his three-year project, but wishes to be a contributor, not a platform. One possible sponsor expected to come forward is British Aerospace, and a commercial airline, offering reduced travel costs to Australia, will be vital to the budget.

Further imminent meetings of the Royal Thame will decide two important administrative functions: the chairman of the America's Cup committee and the syndicate's full-time sailing manager. The key to the 1984-87 campaign will be team work at all levels.

One of the short comings of the Victory syndicate, in spite of de Savary's prodigious investment of money and enthusiasm and apart from his controversial postponement of a decision on the after-guard, was a lack of day-to-day direction in Newport or Nassau whenever de Savary himself

was absent. Neither Jim Alabaster nor Charles Spedding had sufficient independent authority at the dock. Additionally, winter training knowledge of both computers and the crews were not adequately synchronized into the ultimate race planning, and there were differences between the Victory '83 designer, Ian Gowlett, and the crew, on the most advantageous tuning of the boat. Huge economics can be made, on the Victory experience, in rigging and sail purchase.

All these lessons can now be fed into the Royal Thame challenge. Possible chairmen of the committee are Graham Walker, a retired Jersey businessman who was captain of last year's Admiral's Cup team, Robin Aisher and Christopher Dunning. An able but potentially provocative sailing manager would be Harry Cudmore, the joint Victory helmsman with de Savary, was sacked in early 1983.

The technical independence of the designer may have to be modified by a role as consultant. It is thought that Howlett, who was under contract to de Savary, may wish to collaborate while Roger Marshall, a British designer in the United States, could also be incorporated. The Americans and Australians have huge hull design developments under way, and the British cannot afford to be becalmed at the starting line. The Royal Thame will reassess their position within the year they would rather cut their losses early than limp through

to take a tony place among the 23 entries.

It seems sure that sail designer Angus Melrose, whose skill was enlisted possibly too late to help Victory, will be involved, especially as he has been working in the loft of the Australia II syndicate most of the winter. Chris Law is the most obvious likely helmsman, while the mature Kelvin Rawlings and the Thompson twins, hefty masters of the wind, would be the preferred nucleus of the front right.

The task in Perth will be more demanding than in Rhode Island, not simply in cost and distance, but in the size of the challenging fleet and accumulated foreign knowledge. John Koliou, the lightweight skipper with the Robber Redford smile, who in Courageous gave Dennis Conner's Liberty such a close run in the 1983 defender's trials, will lead the New York YC challenge.

The NYYC have already purchased their own foreshore dock site at Fremantle, as has Conner's San Diego club. The government of Western Australia is developing a new marina with modern workshop facilities for the expected fleet. What has yet to be decided is which club will be the challenger of record, overseeing the race conditions and foreign elimination series - Royal Thame are thought to be reluctant - and whether the multiple US entry must be reduced under the rules to one challenger before the elimination series. I guess the event should sell a few cans of lager.



Kitty Godfree winning the 1926 title

## Wimbledons women on centenary parade

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Wimbledon is always a special occasion. This year it will be a very special occasion, especially for those to whom youth is a memory. The first women's singles championship was played in 1884 and 17 of the surviving champions have accepted invitations, expenses paid, to be the tournament's centenary guests.

The three champions going will be two men, Willi (later Moody and Ron) and Jacobs, and Nairobi (later Susan) who may yet find it fit enough to be considered in Keith Burkinshaw's final plans.

But the authorities both here and abroad, seem unable to do anything to solve hooliganism. It is known that UEFA, in their search for a suitable deterrent, are prepared to wield their heaviest weapon and ban the next English side involved. That answer, although perhaps understandable, is both dangerous and misguided.

First it could encourage some supporters to set out to have a rival club thrown out of European competition. Second, rather than holding that national officials responsible for the actions of people beyond their control, it would surely be more appropriate to punish the troublesome individuals themselves - and punish them much more severely than at present.

The season is likely at least to end amid wrangling in Paris, Basle, the location for the City Winters Cup final between Juventus and Porto next week, should be spared the fate that befell parts of Brussels. And the followers of Liverpool, England's representatives in the European Cup final in Rome at the end of the month, are noted more for verbal humour than physical thuggery.

Five of the centenary heroines are expected to compete in one event or another: Billie Jean King, Evonne Goolagong, Virginia Wade, Chris Lloyd, and Martina Navratilova. The rest will join them in a Centre Court parade on July 2, the second Monday, and will be presented with inscribed Watford crystal. As sickeningly changeable as last year's musical accompaniment will be provided by the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Two films are being made, one primarily for distribution overseas, to commemorate 100 years of the women's championship. Two respected historians have produced a booklet about the 34 women who remain active (if in some cases part-time) service.

### RUGBY UNION

## Travellers with a tradition Romania is geared up for Scots

By Iain MacKenzie  
Rugby Correspondent

England's under-23 side leave for a three-match tour of Spain today. The French team, which in the last seven years has beaten Scotland and lost November on the same day that Scotland were drawing 35-all with New Zealand, at Murrayfield Romania beat Wales 24-6 at the end of the 1982 tour.

Spain should not prove so testing, though the playing conditions may prove novel to the English. Wales found this to be so when their B party visited Spain last year but had no trouble winning all their games, the closing match against the senior Spanish side by 65-16, although the Spanish three-quarters indicated some of the pace and flair one associates with their neighbours in the prevailing standards.

They are aware that Scotland won the French in Toulouse and Italy at Aquila. That suggests that they are more fallible away from home. On their own pitches, usually hard and often dusty, they are a different proposition.

They have been training hard for the Scottish visit. Romania do not have a long rugby tradition and they are determined to compensate by showing the international Board countries that they are at least equal to the prevailing standards.

They are aware that Scotland won from that which lost to Scotland at Murrayfield three years ago by four penalties, goals to two. Eleven of that team played against Wales and there is experience in depth.

An additional problem for Scotland is that Colin Deans, Iain Duthie and Ian Paterson, who were in the Grand Slam team, are unavailable, and Jim Calder and Roger Baird, who were also in that side have dropped out because of injury.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

## Division is regionalized

By Keith Mocklin

The second division of the League will be split into eastern and western sections next season, following fixtures meeting in October.

There has been strong support for some change in the division system following, at another season, in which first division attendances held up, while second division gates showed a disturbing decline, particularly among the less successful clubs.

The admission of Sheffield and Mansfield into the second division next season gives a mid-level of football and among youngsters, and we are delighted to be involved in it.

Paul Bence, the coach of Hartlepool Town, is to succeed Mike Keen as manager of another Isthmian League club, Wycombe Wanderers.

## Maidstone's strong case for election

By Paul Newman

Maidstone United believe they can become the first club to win election to the Football League since Wigan Athletic in 1978. The Kent club, having won the Alliance Premier League championship, go forward to the Football League's annual meeting next month as the non-League game's candidate for election for the second season in succession.

Last year Maidstone received 26 votes, a record for a club applying for membership for the first time and only 10 fewer than Hartlepool United, the lowest to the four League clubs in the poll. This year they have good reason to believe they can improve on that performance.

Twelve months ago Maidstone finished runners-up in the Alliance - Enfield, the champions, missed the deadline for submitting their request to stand for election - but this season the Kent club are undisputed champions. Unlike last year they also have a good FA Cup run under their belts, which is often a crucial factor. They beat Exeter City in the first round and eventually went on to the third to Darlington.

Above all, while Maidstone's knock outside the League door is becoming a familiar sound, so is Hartlepool's plea to remain inside: they will be seeking relection for the fourteenth time and for the fourth in the last eight seasons. Chester and two from Wrexham, Rochdale and Halifax Town will still be the remaining relection places.

The one blot on Maidstone's copybook has been the recent unsatisfactory struggle for control in their boardroom. Jim Thompson, the energetic businessman 15 years ago who won Maidstone's first trophy, the Isthmian League club, was ousted in February while on a business trip to America but hopes to regain his position at the Club's annual meeting this Saturday.

The only other doubt League

sponsorship of the Isthmian League is the crowding capacity. Last season the strength of Hartlepool's look certain to ensure a close contest at next month's election. The fact that both are going to the polls for the second year in succession could just swing the vote Maidstone's way.

Stuart Lamb, the chairman of Gola, said: "The real strength of football is not at the level of the Liverpools and Manchester Uniteds, and the nucleus of a good fourth division side.

The strength of Maidstone's case

and the weakness of Hartlepool's football is not at the level of the Liverpools and Manchester Uniteds, and the nucleus of a good fourth division side.

At the end of the season promotion and relegation will remain the same, four up and four down, with the top four clubs in the second division, regardless of original zoning, going up.

A new three-year contract worth £240,000 was agreed yesterday between the Rugby League and John Player Special sponsors of the trophy competition. The event, launched in 1972, will carry prize money of £75,000 next season - and increase of 25 per cent.











# Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

**BBC 1**

00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without teletext facility.

03 Breakfast Time with Selina Scott and Miles Smith. News from Debbie Pix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter-hour; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; gardening hints between 7.30 and 7.45; pop music news between 8.30 and 8.50.

05 Mailbox in Japan. This morning he is one of the 5,000 crowd goggle-eyed at the sight of two 25 stone Sumo wrestlers brawling the breath out of one another (r) 9.25.

Ceefax 10.30 Play School, presented by Carol Dell (r) 10.35 Ceefax.

10 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Jim Bacon 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only) Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).

Pebble Mill at One includes a daffy growers competition; Chinese jumbos walking on stilts; stories from Moira Anderson 1.45 Heads and Tales. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).

Racing from Lingfield. Julian Wilson introduces coverage of the Tender King Stakes (2.15); the Warner Holidays Stakes (2.45); the East Bookmakers Oaks Trials Stakes (3.15) and the Under Harts Stakes (3.45). 2.55 Regional news (not London).

Play School, presented by Carol Dell, Jameson 4.15. Star Gazing Fairy Tales. Sheila Hancock with the tale of Rapunzel 4.25 The Record Breakers. Roy Castle presents another selection of exemplary feats (r) 4.50 You Want to Be Top. Everything you want to know about school survival (r) 5.05 Codename Icarus. Episode three of the five-part drama about missile sabotage (r).

5.40 Sixty minutes begins with the news read by Jon Leeming; followed by weather at 5.54; regional news magazines at 5.55; and ending with news headlines at 6.38.

5.40 The Pink Panther Show. Three cartoons (r).

7.00 Odd One Out. Five contestants challenge last week's winner in a series of questions to find which word, picture or music clue is different from the rest. Paul Daniels is the presenter.

Fame, Sandy Bailey, a former pupil of the High School for the Performing Arts, rusticated because of a drink problem, returns to the fold but soon slips back into his old habits.

8.20 The Time of Your Life. Noel Edmonds re-creates a memorable month from the swinging 60s.

9.00 News with John Humphrys. 9.25 Starek and Hutch. The irascible policemen disguise themselves as heroin dealers when on the trail of a drug ring (r).

9.15 Pinkerton's Progress. Comedy series about the staff of a minor public school (r).

0.45 News headlines and weather. 0.50 Film: The Boss's Son (1978) starring Asher Brunner, Rita Moreno and Rudy Solari. Fresh from college, armed with a business degree, young Bobby Rose learns the hard way about life in his father's carpet mill. Directed by Bobby Roth. Ends at 12.25.

1089kHz/275m. Radio 2: 693kHz/433m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90.25; Radio 4: 200kHz/150m: VHF 92-95; LBC 1152kHz/261m: VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1456kHz/205m: VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

**TV-am**

0.25 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; the weekend's best buys at 8.40 and 8.45; angling advice at 6.45; exercises at 8.50 and 9.15; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; Popeye cartoon at 7.25; guest of the day, Judy Lee, at 7.40 and 8.15; pop video at 7.55; Jem's post bag at 8.20; Jimmy Greaves' week end television highlights at 8.35; Beauty spot at 9.05.

**ITV/LONDON**

0.35 Themes news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: The natural history of a Derbyshire Dale. 9.50 History in a country church. 10.05 A child suffering from spine blinks. 10.25 The use of adverbs. 10.45 A-level chemistry. 11.05 English part one, a drama, Izzy, by Jan Mark. 11.22 Part two of the Indian legend, the Golden Antelope. 11.40 Reproduction and human relationships. 11.55 Watton. Watton. Cartoon series. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. 12.30 On the Market. Susan Brooks and Trevor Hyett with the weekend's best food buys.

1.00 News with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 Thriller with Alan Robin. 1.30 Alan Robin. Architect Mike Jensen explores the physics of Bath. 2.00 Look Who's Talking. With Derek Bailey. 2.15 Eddie Rabbitt. Leslie Crofton (r).

2.30 Return of the Saint. Smooth Simon tries to trace an odd chap who threatens to blow up London if a beautiful girl is not guillotined in public (r). 3.30 Sons and Daughters.

4.00 Rainbow. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 Aubrey. 4.25 The Wind in the Willows. More delightful adventures based on the Kenneth Grahame characters. 4.50 Freetime. Ideas for young people with time on their hands. 5.15 The Young Doctors.

5.45 News. 6.00 The Six O'Clock Show, with Michael Aspel. 7.00 The Pyramid Game. Two member-of-the-public contestants are joined by Victoria Wood and John Junkin in a fast-moving test of powers of description.

7.30 Hardcastle and McCormick. The mismatched but effective crime fighters find themselves pitted against a suave and sophisticated thief.

8.30 That's My Boy. Comedy series starring Mollie Sugden as the possessive mother of her now-adult son she abandoned as a child (Oracle titles page 170).

9.00 Marlowe - Private Eye. The laconic lawman fights corruption at City Hall and immediately becomes a hunted man. Who is it that is trying to kill him off? Starring Powers Boothe (Oracle titles page 170).

10.00 News.

10.30 The London Programme investigates private homes for old people. Enquiries over the past year have revealed instances of old people being abused and exploited.

11.00 Shoot Poot! Another round of the best-of eleven frames tournament for the John Bull Bitter London Pool Championship.

12.00 South of Watford. Ben Elton with a very look at the way of life of Londoners.

12.30 Highway Patrol\*. Vintage crime series starring Broderick Crawford (r) followed by Night Thoughts from Deaconess Helen Stans.

**BBC 2**

Dr Judy Greenwood: Sex Matters (Channel 4 10.30pm)

0.35 Open University: Maths Modelling. Knott 5.30. Introduction to Sociology 8.55 Images: The Third Dimension 7.25 Chemical Reactions 7.45 Pathways to the Brain. Ends at 8.10.

9.08 Daytime on Two: The economic struggle of the Great Lake city of Cleveland. 9.28 Cesex 9.52 Sex education for eight-to-10-year-olds 10.15 Lesley Judd with ideas on how to reduce fat intake 10.40 Houses: The Solution.

10.45 Ceefax 11.00 Art projects about their community by children from Yorkshire and Dorset. 11.22 Part one of Ian Taylor's Hungry Times. With subtitles 11.45 Ceefax 12.05 Computer Games.

12.30 Ceefax 2.01 Teenage temper and how it can be controlled 2.20 Journalism - with David Emery of the Daily Star and Jill Eversley of Look Now. Ends at 2.55.

3.00 Ceefax. 5.05 Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open University programme.

5.10 Broadcast Rituals. An Open University production that examines the BBC's expertise in the coverage of the great rituals of the nation (r).

5.35 News summary with subtitles. Cartoon Two.

5.46 Film: West of the Pecos (1966) starring Robert Mitchum and Barbara Hale. A lively cowboy adventure with Mitchum playing the cool ranch hand who comes to the aid of a wealthy banker and his attractive daughter who find themselves in the middle of an attack on their ranch. Directed by Edward Killy.

5.50 Eight Days a Week presented by Robin Denslow. With his guests, Drummer Zeb of Aswad and Trade, Mr. Oenslouw takes a critical look at the week's new films, records, videos and concerts.

7.20 America. Part three of Alastair Cooke's personal history of his adopted country (r).

8.10 My Music. The first of a new series of musical quizzes. Gardener's World. Geoff Hamilton prepares and sows a lawn; Anne Mayo tackles bulbs after flowering; and Betty Metcalfe has new ideas about cultivating French beans and tomatoes.

8.30 Empire. The first of a new comedy series of boardroom farces (see Choice).

9.25 All Our Lives. Part five of the 11-episode series about Britain and work in the 20th century examines the lot of the aircraft workers (Ceefax titles page 170).

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**CHANNEL 4**

• Patrick McNaes, the smooth and ruthless former Avenger reappears on British television tonight in the smooth, dapper and ruthless Calvin Cromwell in a newly imported American comedy series, EMPIRE (BBC 9.00pm). Set in the head offices of a giant international conglomerate ruled through fear by chairman Cromwell ('enough breads excellence'), the six part series gets off to a cracking start with the board directors being thrown into various states of panic by the calling of an emergency board meeting. Paranoia rules as the reasons for this meeting are mulled over by the directors - privately, a bunch of nervous wrecks, publicly, brimming over with bonhomie and confidence. Into this piranha tank of vice presidents is hurled the latest of their number, one Ben Christian, a man of big business, promoted to the world of big business, promoted to

the board from his research laboratory at the behest of Cromwell. Immediately treated with disdain by the rest of the board he later becomes the subject of their hilarious unease. As with all the best American comedy, the episodes are comparatively short and the timing of the delivery of the dialogue is perfect - two pluses that sugar well for the remaining five episodes.

• Yorkshire Television's controversial series, SEX MATTERS (Channel 4 10.30pm) has found itself in censorship trouble even before it has been screened. Part one, which should have been shown tonight, has been withdrawn to be shown in its re-cut state as programme number six. In its place tonight is part two,

**CHOICE**

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Couples, in which the amphetamine-sensible sex counsellor, Dr Judy Greenwood, interviews nine couples who have problems arising from living together but who have managed to overcome their various crises. These include unfaithfulness, anger and the need to preserve one's independence whether married or living together, sexually or homosexually.

• Carol Phillips, in the final programme of the series THE SPORTING LIFE (Radio 4, 4.10pm), examines Sport and the Black Community. Why is it, Mr Phillips asks, that some sports attract black people while others remain the domain of the whites? Is society's attitude to black athletes a reflection of what society thinks of all blacks? Mr Phillips searches deep for the answers.

**Radio 3**

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. Morning Concert: Tchaikovsky's Legend, Liszt's Legende No 2. Dvorak Legende 8 and 9. Wieniawski's Legende, Sibelius' Legende No 1. 8.00 News. 8.30 Weather. 8.45 Concert: Brahms' piano concerto. 8.55 Haydn's String Quartet No 64. 9.00 News. 9.15 Concert: Beethoven's Sonatas Les Adieux, Dussek's Sonata Op 44, L'Audeu.

10.00 Northern Sinfonia: Works by Cimarosa, Haydn (Symphony No 26, Unfinished), Lach, Falta. 11.00 Concert: Brahms' Piano Concerto No 2. 11.30 Haydn's String Quartet No 64. 12.00 Michael Christie: BBC Concert: BBC Philharmonic: Ode: Britten's Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, Haydn's Symphony No 103 (London, 1974).

12.05 Weather. 12.15 Concert: Northern Sinfonia: Works by Cimarosa, Haydn (Symphony No 26, Unfinished), Lach, Falta. 12.30 Haydn's String Quartet No 64. 12.45 Michael Christie: BBC Concert: BBC Philharmonic: Ode: Britten's Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, Haydn's Symphony No 103 (London, 1974).

**Radio 2**

News on the hour except 8.00pm and 9.00. Major bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight. Headlines: 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30am. 4.30pm: Billie Holiday, 5.30pm: Ray Charles, 6.30pm: Stevie Wonder, 7.30pm: Gloria Huniford, 8.30pm: The Oak Ridge Boys, 9.30pm: The Beach Boys, 10.30pm: Iron Maiden, 11.30pm: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron Maiden, 9.00am: Iron Maiden, 10.00am: Iron Maiden, 11.00am: Iron Maiden, 12.00am: Iron Maiden, 1.00am: Iron Maiden, 2.00am: Iron Maiden, 3.00am: Iron Maiden, 4.00am: Iron Maiden, 5.00am: Iron Maiden, 6.00am: Iron Maiden, 7.00am: Iron Maiden, 8.00am: Iron

# WPC Fletcher - unlawfully killed by embassy bullet

By Michael Horsnell

Comptroller William Hucklesby, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said yesterday that investigations into the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher would continue and that 400 lines of inquiry were being pursued.

He was speaking after a jury at Westminster coroner's court found that WPC Fletcher, aged 26, was unlawfully killed outside the Libyan People's Bureau in London on April 17.

After a 90-minute retirement the jury of five men and five women found WPC died from a firearm wound to the abdomen caused by a bullet fired from one of two windows on the building's first floor at about 10.20 am.

Commander Hucklesby said inquiries included tracing the origin of guns allegedly found by the Libyans in the British embassy in Tripoli, for which serial numbers had been provided by a Libyan news agency, and continuing forensic tests on the weapons found at the bureau in London.

More than 100 people have been interviewed and 200 statements obtained.

After the inquest, at which 24 witnesses gave evidence, Mr Ian Walker, a solicitor for the Police Federation representing the Fletcher family, said: "At the moment I have no instructions from the family as to whether they want to take matters further but a claim against the Libyans is an option they may look at."

There is also the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to be considered and there may be other remedies which may be pursued."

It emerged yesterday that the Police Memorial Trust, established to commemorate police officers killed in the course of duty, intends to put up a memorial to WPC Fletcher.

WPC Fletcher's injuries were so severe that no medical intervention could have saved her and she died in hospital just over two hours after being hit. Dr Iain West, consultant forensic pathologist at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, told the inquest.

He said she died from an abdominal wound having been shot in the right side of the back by a bullet striking her from a 60-degree angle. The bullet entered her liver, struck her spine, severed the pancreas, re-entered the liver and started to "tumble" before emerging at the junction of the chest and abdomen. It ruptured the main vein.

The bullet pierced her tunic lining as it came to rest and is believed to have been the one



Arms cache: Guns and ammunition from the Libyan People's Bureau displayed yesterday. They included sets of armour, placed here on a dummy, two .38 Cobra Colt revolvers, a 9mm Parabellum spent cartridge case found by a window in the building and sub-machine gun parts (Photograph: Peter Trewin)

found in the ambulance which took her to hospital.

The shot was obviously fired from the bureau's first or second floor, he said. The bullet was a .45 fired from a sub-machinegun and WPC Fletcher may have been the first victim to be hit.

Mr Robin Keely, a police forensic scientist, said tests showed guns were fired from two windows in the ambassador's large general waiting room where firearms residue was found.

Commander Hucklesby said the 30 Libyans escaped from the bureau at the end of the 10-day siege to Sunningdale were questioned by police who established their identity. Then they were flown to Tripoli.

A four-day search of the building starting on April 30 revealed 4,367 rounds of

ammunition, four .38 revolvers, three self-loading pistols with loading magazines. Sterling sub-machinegun magazines, body armour and bomb blankets.

He had no evidence to identify positively two of the 30 people released from the bureau as responsible for the shooting. All 30 remained suspects. The police had no warning before the shooting, he added.

In answer to a question from Mr Walker, he said 22 of the 30 had diplomatic status sufficient to protect them from prosecution.

Mr Brian Arnold, a forensic scientist, said the bullet which killed WPC Fletcher came from a Sterling sub-machinegun but two such weapons were almost certainly fired. The simultaneous firing of these could sound like the more rapid-firing Ingram sub-machine gun which

a police witness told the inquest on Wednesday that he thought he had heard.

Mr Arnold said he knew of no weapon other than the Sterling which produced the type of mark his examination revealed from the bullet found in the ambulance.

Last night anti-terrorist squad officers said one of the guns found in the Bureau could have been used by assassins who killed Mr Mohammed Ramadan, a Libyan journalist, outside the Regent's Park Mosque in April 1980.

• Britain has allowed 197 Libyans into the country since April 17. Mr David Waddington, Minister of State at the Home Office, said in the Commons. Most were returning from short visits abroad and had visas issued before April 17, he said. *Parliament, page 4*

## British Greens prepare election battle lines

By David Cross

The British Ecology Party, which is fielding 15 candidates in the forthcoming European elections, yesterday unveiled a campaign manifesto designed to turn the EEC into a European Ecological Community.

At a press conference in London, leaders of the party said that fundamental changes were required to the Treaty of Rome. These are peace, environment, work, energy and agriculture.

None of them stands a chance of being elected under Britain's first-past-the-post electoral system - a major bone of contention.

## Letter from the Alamo Treasured symbol of Texan spirit

It is 97 degrees, a brutal spring day even for south Texas. The bleached-white walls of the mission San Antonio de Valero are hot as coals.

It is cool inside where the Daughters of the Republic of Texas are showing off a couple of Davy Crockett looks distinctly like John Wayne surrounded by a bevy of dead bodies. He is backed up by look-alikes of Richard Widmark and Laurence Harvey. Such pandering to populism make historians wince but the Daughters say that children like it.

Many a person has produced new ideas to turn the Alamo into a business venture but the Daughters are resistant to changing its present character - a low-key, low-budget museum and shrine with the minimum of gimmickry.

The latest businessman with a package of proposals is Mr Gary Foreman, a history buff from Illinois. He is waging a campaign against the Daughters, appealing directly to civic leaders with his ideas for "multimedia presentations of historical subjects" - what most of us know as *son et lumiere*.

He says the real failure of the Daughters is in not giving visitors any concept of the real size of the old Alamo or its predecessor, the Mission San Antonio de Valero, which began in 1718 to turn local Indians into Christians (in fact the biggest achievement of the missionaries was to introduce measles and chicken pox, which eventually wiped out most of the local Indian population).

Mrs Kelli Dibrell, the Alamo committee chairman for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, said adamantly: "We were given instructions by the legislature not to create a battlefield but to create a shrine in memory of 187 men who died here. It is a shrine, not a tourist thing."

And she said that any attempt to extend the present four-and-a-half acre site to anything like its original size would be impossible.

No doubt the Daughters will successfully fight off Mr Foreman in their determination to keep the Alamo a rustic, simple monument. Their toughest and overriding battle is to halt the ravages to the ancient walls, to save them as a monument to the spirit of Texas.

Christopher Thomas

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

Princess Anne, Patron of the Royal Yachting Association, attends the Royal Lytham & St Annes Cup Match Racing Championships. 11:15. Later attends a Charity Premiere of *West Side Story* in aid of Richmond Fellowship, at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, 8.15.

Princess Margaret, as President, attends the annual general meeting of the Royal Scottish Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Children in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.

The Duke of Gloucester attends the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland's Conference and reception at Albany Hotel, Glasgow, 9.30.

The Duchess of Kent, as Chancellor, will preside at the Congregation for the Conferment of Honorary Degrees at the University of Leeds, 4.35; and later attend dinner for honorary graduates at University House, Leeds, 8.

The Duke of Kent, a President of the Royal National Lifeboat

#### Institution, visits the lifeboat station at Arbroath, 10.

#### New exhibitions

Paintings and other works - Paul Kelly, and Recent sculpture by Doug Cooper, both exhibiting at the Royal Lancaster College, St Andrews, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (closed Sun - both end June 6).

Paintings by Simon Cook, Blake Gallerie, Georges Lane, Cuckfield, and Somerset; Mon to Sat 10 to 4 (closed Sun - ends May 26).

Dinah Prentice - Sewn Constructions, Central Library, Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes; Mon to Wed 9 to 6. Thus to 8. Thus to 5 to 6 closed Sun - ends May 9).

The Development of English Landscapes, Watercolours and Drawings, Iona, Cuckfield, Donington Priory, Donington, Newbury; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6 (ends May 19).

Music for brass by the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble at North Worcester College, Southside Hall, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, 7.35.

Concert of Beethoven and Holst, Women's Voices, Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta with conductor Jane Glover and soloist Janet Hilton, Colfox School, Bridport, 7.30.

The Forsyth Concert by Anna Markland, (piano), All Saints' Church, Altrincham, Cheshire, 8.00.

English Music of the Twentieth Century, Celebration with choir, orchestra and young London soloists, The Parish Church, St Germans, or Saltash, 7.30.

Concert of the Abbey Singers, Hillsborough, Ulster, Parish Church, 8.00pm.

Review by Israeli pianist Lioba Ziv-Lichtenberg College Chapel, 7.30pm, University of East Anglia's Organ Prize recital, Norwich Cathedral, 11.

General Golden Jubilee of the Morris Ring, dance displays, Victoria Square, Birmingham, 3.30pm.

Open Day, University, Open Day, review to meet people behind the Open Day.

Supper at the Tonini Hotel, Peebles, Speaker, Professor David Short, Physician to the Queen, Organized by Christian Viewpoint.

Light weight? (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,426

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#### Food prices

Of the numerous apples available from New Zealand, the Cape, Chile, France, Italy, Canada and the United States and our own stored away, the one with the most interesting background appears to be the New Zealand Gala. A cross-bred Delicious and Cox, the result of a cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and Delicious. It costs around 40-52 a pound, which is quite expensive, but then good breeding does not come cheap. Gala Grapes are good value at 60-70p a lb and there are early peaches from Israel at 15-25p each.

Salad ingredients are more plentiful with round English and Dutch lettuce, and radish, from Spain, the United States and Hungary, as well as our own, which is the best. English Asparagus is 90-180p a lb, depending on thickness.

Beef prices show little change, a few bargains may be found on the cheaper cuts. Home-produced lamb is still expensive, ranging from £1.65 to £2.00 for a whole leg, £1 to £1.60 for shoulder, and loin chops are £1.80 to £2.84 a lb. Pork prices are stable apart from loin chops, up a pound. It seems that the best bacon wholesale prices are going up by a further £40 a tonne next week, on top of the £30 a tonne two weeks ago. Some good buys for this weekend are Tesco's New Zealand lamb shoulder at 68p a lb.

Wales and West: A4: Lane restriction in Howell Road, and from Archer Road/St Georges Road, Bristol. Avon: no right turn into Jacobs Well Road, A390; Liskeard to Truro Road W of Westhouse, Cornwall; temporary lights and at Probus, A470; Cardiff to Merthyr road at North Road, flyover in Cardiff.

North: M1: Lane closures north and south between junctions 35 (Rotherham) and junction 37 (Barnsley). A6: Roadworks at New Mills, Derbyshire. Temporary traffic signs and single-lane traffic on Shaw Road, near Arnold Street, Oldham; Arnold Street closed.

Scotland: ABS: Stop boards on Crieff Road, west of Perth City boundary, Perthshire. A737: Outside lane closed on both carriageways at Ferguslie, E of Fulbar Road, Paisley. M80: Northbound carriageway closed at M9 junction 9. Surfacing diversion operates via the slip roads.

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